



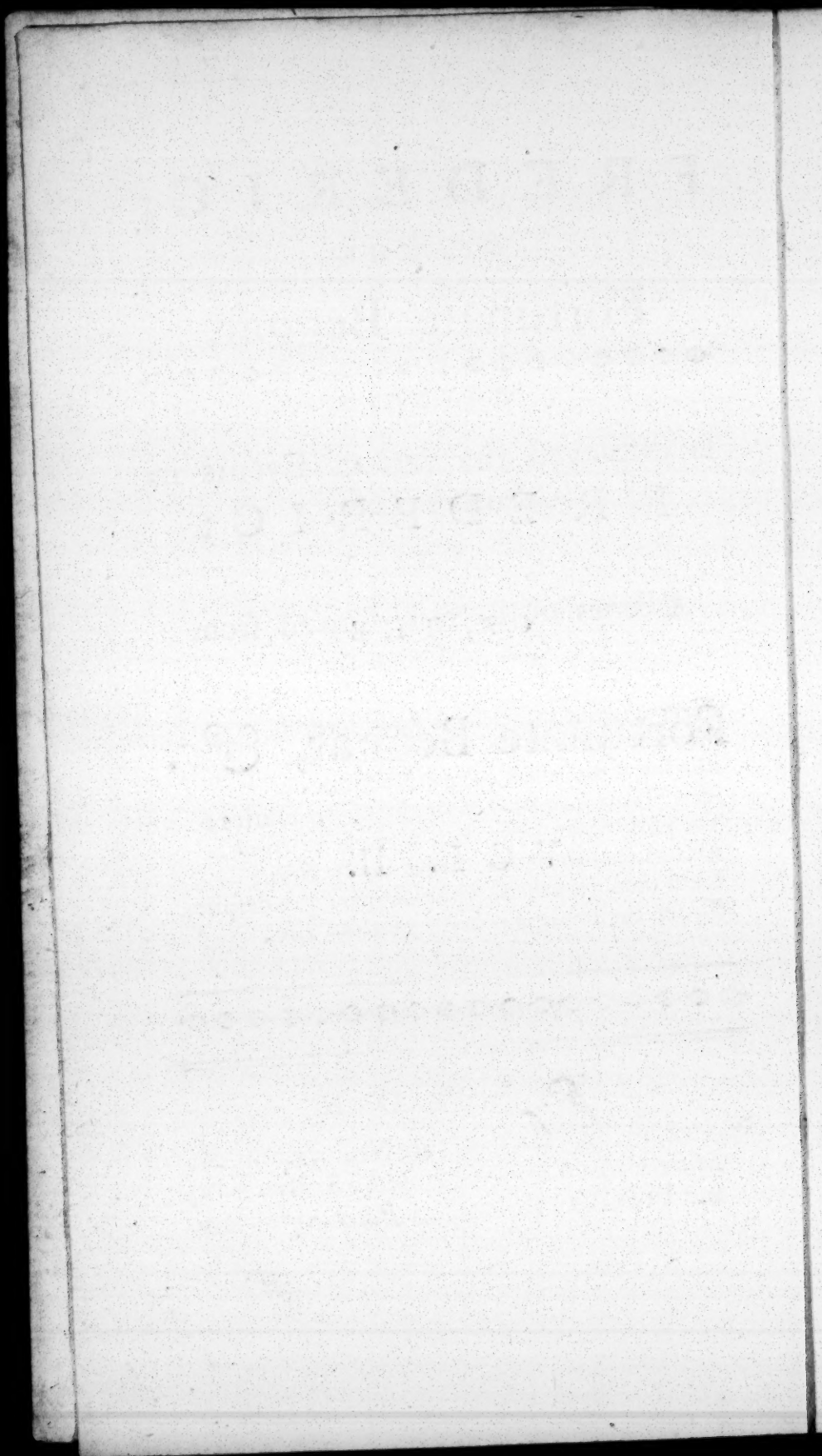
F R E D E R I C ;

O R, T H E

Fortunate Beggar, &c.

V O L. II.





F R E D E R I C ;

O R, T H E

Fortunate Beggar.

W H E R E I N

Is displayed the various Events in
Human Life,

I N

A Series of Letters, Copied from
O R I G I N A L S .

Fortune is not so fickle as she's deem'd,
Merit by her is try'd before esteem'd ;
For she with mock Severity beguiles ;
Her *Frowns* are only Earnests of her Smiles ;
She pulls down some with *high erected Heads*,
And raises others from their *humble Beds* :
Blush then ye proud, while *Beggars* you despise,
To see the lowly *Frederic's* glorious rise.

V O L. II.

L O N D O N .

Printed for J. ROSEN, at No. 54, in *St. Martin's le Grand*, and Sold by S. BLADON,
and W. GOLDSMITH, in *Pater-noster-row*.

THE D E R I C

FOR THE

OF THE

OF THE

OF THE

OF THE

OF THE

OF THE

Mary Ryder

T H E

Fortunate Beggar, &c.

FREDERIC LOVEMORE, to CHAR-
LOTTE, *Countess of G——.*

MADAM,

A Lady of your sensibility will easily feel what I suffered when I left the marquis's house, and my mind continued struggling with all the agitations of misery till I joined the regiment, where the company of my fellow-officers in some measure dispelled my melancholy, and brought again at least some part of my natural vivacity.

VOL. II.

A

I ar-

I arrived in the camp just when the army had received orders to march, for the enemy were expected every day. Accordingly we began our march, and next day a bloody engagement ensued, in which we lost a great number both of men and officers, and were very near being defeated. Our commander in chief who exerted himself with the most consummate military knowledge, by his eagerness to repulse one wing of the enemy, had almost deprived us of his valuable life. At that instant, seeing him almost overpowered by numbers, and regardless of my own wretched life, I ran to his assistance with the party under my command, by which I dislodged the enemy, put them to flight, and rescued my worthy general, whose safety was dearer to me than my own.

Soon

Soon after this engagement, which cost us very dear, I received two letters, one from Lord B——, and one from Mr. Watson, but you shall not see them till I hear from you; for it is my opinion, that if I did not use some such method, you would never take a pen in your hand.

You are willing to satisfy your own curiosity, but I have spirit enough to convince you, that unless you will contribute to my entertainment, I shall break off in the middle of my task, and so you will find yourself disappointed. In the mean time, all your friends wish you well, but are impatient to hear from you, as is he whom you call friend.

FRED. LOVEMORE.

CHALOTTE, *Countess of G——*, to
FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

FREDERIC,

YOU are one of the most provoking fellows I ever met with; why do you put me off with trifles? You first stimulated my curiosity with promises, and now you refuse to gratify me. The manner in which you treated your adorable mistress, was the most cruel I ever heard of. How could you tell her she was the sole object of your love, and at the same time advise her to marry a man to whom she had the utmost aversion? Would you divest yourself of human passion, and when the young lady had declared that she loved you above all others, was it not cruel to tell her that you could wish

wish to see her in the arms of another? But such hypocrisy is common with your sex; you can dissemble your real sentiments at a time when you pretend to be acting with sincerity.

I have lost for a time, one of my admirers, for no other reason, but that I favoured a handsome young captain with my company to one of the places of summer amusements. A fine thing indeed! for you men to pretend to be in love, but will not suffer a girl to behave with good manners to the rest of your sex. Jealousy before marriage, is a proof that we shall have enough of it afterwards. Poor thing, I pitied him, and told him, that I would fetch something to comfort him, but he said, he would not put me to the trouble.

Alas ! by some degree of woe,
 We every bliss must gain ;
 The heart can ne'er a transport know,
 That never felt a pain.

He left me in a rage, but first told me, that his passion was too pure, and too sincere to be trifled with. I told him, that if I had any inclination for a husband, he might do very well, I had no objection to him, but at present I had no inclination to change my liberty for slavery.

Now, Frederic, I have given you a specimen of my spark's behaviour as well as my own ; and, although I know you will disapprove of it, yet remember, that if every man has a right to be in his humour, so has a woman ; but I am interrupted. A gentleman waits for me,
 I know

(7)

I know not who it is, but I will
inform you in my next.

I am, &c.

CHARLOTTE G——.

A 4

LORD

LORD B——, to FREDERIC
LOVEMORE.

DEAR FREDERIC,

ALL things are at present in the same manner as when you left us, only that my father has given Isabella two months to reconcile herself to Lord L——, and prepare for her intended nuptials. She received his orders with great composure, and seems much more chearful than I have known her for some time past.

What can be the meaning of this sudden change in her behaviour? I am at a loss to find it out. She stepped into my apartment; and seeing me writing to you, desired me to present her respects, telling
me,

me, that while she remains single, she will insist on seeing your letters because when she is once married, she must drop all correspondence of that nature; for it would be inconsistent with her character, after entering into that state, to have any thing to do with single gentlemen, especially such as wear a red coat and a shoulder-knot.

We have seen an account in the news-papers of a bloody engagement, where, I suppose, you had a share of the danger. I hope my dear friend is in safety, and has not received any hurt; but I am extremely uneasy, and shall continue so till I hear from you, which I hope will be soon. Excuse the shortness of this letter, I am afflicted with a pain in my head, but nothing shall ever make me forget my amiable friend,

CHARLES B——.

A 5

P. S.

P.S. You will find inclosed, a letter from your worthy friend Mr. Watson, which I have forwarded as soon as it came to hand, but I am ignorant of the contents.

JEREMY

JEREMY WATSON, *Esq*; to
FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

DEAR FREDERIC,

I Wish you would leave the army, and make my house your home, for I am going to renounce my daughter for ever, and constitute you my heir at law. I gave her according to her own desire, a whole year to consider of the match I had provided for her; and that being now expired, instead of complying with my request, she insists on another year; and declares she will not return till that is likewise expired. She says, if I will let her remain so long, she will return and be obedient to all my commands, so as I will promise to drop all thoughts of her .

A 6

former

former lover, whom she still hates with the utmost contempt.

She has the assurance to say, that she will never give him her hand, but promises that she will accept of any person as a husband, whose age is suitable to hers, and upon whom she can place her affections. Such is the assurance that my disobedient girl shews to her indulgent parent, who only wishes to make her happy; but I will be revenged on her for such obstinacy, by cutting her off with a shilling. If you will leave the army and spend your time with me, you shall have a plentiful fortune; whereas at present, you can at most but rise to a small command, and that at the hazard of your life. My daughter desires to be remembered to you, and wishes you happy in the arms of your Isabella, for she says, you will never make a good husband to any other.

Fare-

(13)

Farewell, Frederic ; and if you cannot favour me with your company, let me have at least a few lines.

I am,

Your sincere friend,

JEREMY WATSON.

FREDERIC

FREDERIC LOVEMORE, *to*
L O R D B——.

MY DEAR LORD,

I Am extremely pleased to hear that your amiable sister has at last complied with her honoured father's request, as it cannot be supposed he has any thing at heart besides her happiness. It will alleviate all his other afflictions to see his daughter happily settled, because she will then be under the protection of Lord L—— her husband, of whom I have heard a most excellent character. Your wishes for my safety arises from your real goodness of heart, but our worthy commander has more than repayed my small services ; for this day he has given
me

me a captain's commission, in room of one of the brave officers who lost his life in the engagement. He has also promised to promote me to a much higher station as soon as he can, telling me that few would have ventured their lives in the manner I did to save his.

I thanked him in the politest manner, but told him I had done nothing more than my duty, and what I should be always ready to do on any occasion, where so valuable a life was in danger. We are all foldiers (said I) and it is our duty from the highest to the lowest to assist each other, especially when our mutual preservation depends upon it. Never let me be forgotten to the lovely, the amiable Isabella, at least whilst she remains unmarried; and when she has entered into that state, may she experience every happiness that can be wished for. It

was

was extremely kind in her to think of me, it was a condescension I am not by any right intitled to, but the goodness of her heart sets aside formality, and she, to her eternal honour, deigns to call one a friend, who was rescued from wretchedness by her father's generous liberality.

Excuse a tear, my lord, my heart is filled with gratitude, and I cannot forget past favours whilst I remember the marquis of B——.

FRED. LOVEMORE..

FREDERIC

FREDERIC LOVEMORE to JEREMY
WATSON, *Esq*;

S I R,

I Am extremely glad to hear that you have learned something concerning your beloved daughter; and I doubt not but as her request is so moderate, being only one year longer, I am sure you have too much goodness to deny it. You know the young ladies love liberty, they have strange whimsical humours, but there is not an impossibility of bringing them about; and I doubt not but before the time she has requested is expired, you will find her in every thing that is reasonable, obedient to your commands.

With

With respect to your advice of my quitting the army, I can only say, that when I made choice of that profession, it was with a fixed resolution of serving my country to the utmost of my abilities; and, whether or not I love my life, I will endeavour to maintain the character of a good soldier, let the dangers be what they will.

It is true, the camp does not exclude unhappiness even from the minds of those who look upon their situation of life as wretched, which must always be the case with me while I remember the lovely image of the adorable Isabella. When I first indulged that unhappy passion, which has so long preyed upon my spirits, I thought I should at least have some happiness in the contemplation of the beloved object; but alas! the contrary has taken place, and I become every day more wretched.

wretched. The unmerited generosity shewn me by the marquis, forbids me from doing an injury to his amiable daughter ; and, were I to act from no other motives but those of gratitude, I could not gratify the inclinations of my heart ; but I will be more noble, for truth shall regulate my heart and guide my steps.

The generous offer made by you, my dear friend, of making me your heir, would be esteemed by those who have nothing in view besides promoting their own interest ; but with me, generosity takes place next to truth, and I should rather have wished to go and rob an honest man on the highway, than sit down and riot on your daughter's fortune. No, my dear friend, I still hope to see your daughter happy under your protection, and married according to your wishes. My case, Sir, is
really

(20)

really deplorable; but when you
favour me with your advice, I hope
I shall know how to act. Let me
beg to hear from you, and, in the
mean time,

I am,

Your affectionate friend,

FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

ISABELLA

ISABELLA *to* FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

DEAR FREDERIC,

I Am infinitely obliged to you for the councils you have given me, and should have thought myself extremely happy, had it been in my power to comply with them, because they might have in the end turned to my own advantage; but I look upon the few lines you sent me, as dictated not by love, but merely out of a principle of regard which you have for our family. This was but poor consolation to the unhappy Isabella, who looked for the effusions of love instead of the advice of a friend; but I must be passive, the afflicted are obliged to submit.

I sup-

I suppose my brother has acquainted you with my wretched situation, and the resolutions my father has taken ; but be assured, before he has time to accomplish his intended scheme, I shall place myself in such a state of security, that they will have no knowledge where I am.

All my sufferings would have been considered as trifles, had I been assured that I was esteemed by the person, who of all others, is dear to me in this world ; but alas ! your letter convinces me that I have no right to expect a place in that heart which is already disposed of to another person. Possibly you may alter your mind, but if you never do, let me beg that you will forget there was ever such a person in the world as the wretched Isabella. May you be happy in the enjoyment of Louisa, but I blush
when

when I discover a weakness so peculiar to my sex ; a passion that will undoubtedly rob me of that peace of mind which I might otherwise have enjoyed.

I am determined from this moment, never to converse or correspond more with the only object of my affections ; and as my tongue could never have uttered what has been dropped from my pen, I hope that at least a veil will be drawn over female weakness ; where you cannot love, you may at least approve.

O ! Frederic, I wish you had a heart to bestow, how happy then would the wretched Isabella have been ! But alas ! love is an involuntary passion, and I have none to blame but myself. What reason had I to imagine your heart was not disposed of before, while your accomplishments are such as must
 captivate

captivate the heart of every woman of the least sensibility? I will not blame you, but rather admire your noble generosity of nature, while I submit with resignation to the torturing thought, that you have been the innocent, undesigned occasion of all my sufferings.

I hope my beloved brother and you, will always remain in a state of true and real friendship, endeavouring to alleviate all the afflictions he may suffer in consequence of my conduct; but let me beg, that it may never occur to your memory, or ever be the subject of your conversation, that there was such a person as

ISABELLA.

JEREMY

JEREMY WATSON, *to Captain*
FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

FREDERIC,

YOU desire me to send you my advice what to do; but to be plain with you, I know not what to say; my own troubles are of so similar a nature, that they bear a striking resemblance to each other. As things are at present, I do not see any reason you have to imagine why you should forfeit your interest with the family of the marquis, because you have done nothing to offend him. Were I a young fellow, I would not stand upon any of these ceremonies, but venture upon giving my hand to the young lady, let the consequences be what they would. I would take her in her present

VOL. II. B mind,

mind, without putting myself to any further trouble, and you know that she is not a despicable object.

I have been often surprized at the vast number of phrases so common in all your letters, manly generosity, benevolence and love; while at the same time, the whole appears nothing but nonsense to one of a thinking mind. Supposing your unnatural behaviour should break the young lady's heart, in what light will your generosity, your benevolence, your boasted love appear? Just like the devil with his cloven foot, who always assumes the appearance of an angel of light until he is detected. The marquis, I suppose, would consider himself as under infinite obligations to you for murdering his daughter, and look upon your cruelty as a proof of your love. To be sure, this is a fine way
of

of courting young ladies ; for if the lover cannot obtain them in marriage, he is sure to prevent a rival from that benefit.

Love, Frederic, is a very serious matter, and I may say in the words of the poet :

Try all Jove's mighty empire round,
A faithful lover's seldom found.

Let me beg that you will not discourage the young lady, nor treat her warmth of passion with so much indifference as you pretend to ; the consequence may be fatal to her, and how can you excuse yourself for acting so inconsistent with that character you have always supported relating to sincerity and the behaviour of a true gentleman ? If you are discarded by her relations, my house shall be open for your reception ; and if they refuse to make any provision

vision for you, I will take such measures as shall guard you against want. It is true, what I can give you would not be sufficient to make you so rich as the young lady might expect; but then you will remember, that when genuine love takes fixed root in the mind, many inconveniencies will be submitted to with such a resignation as must lift the character of the object far above the ordinary rank of mortals.

My advice, Frederic, is, that you will not delay one moment in making both yourself and the young lady happy in the enjoyment of each other, although at the expence of the marquis's displeasure, which undoubtedly will one day be cancelled, and you reconciled to his favour. You know Lord B—— is your friend at present; and as he loves both you and his sister, there is no doubt but he will contribute
towards

towards promoting your happiness as far as possible.

But supposing you may after all this reject the advice you so earnestly solicited, and be foolish enough to take it into your head to commence a Friar, and then seclude yourself from human society, by taking refuge within the walls of a cloyster; indeed this would be no more than what you justly deserve, because so many love-sick girls have done so, from the impression your accomplishments has made upon them.

Such was the case with my Louisa, who, I am sure, would never have rejected the addresses of my friend the 'squire, had there not been such a person in the world as Frederic Lovemore. Nothing will give me greater pleasure than to hear from you, and for that reason I hope you will not deprive me of

so great a pleasure. You may confide in me at all times as a most faithful friend : but let me beg, that notwithstanding all your pretensions to courage, in the next engagement, you will not be fool-hardy enough to hazard your life, to save that of your general's. You may look upon your commander's generosity in what light you please, but in my opinion he is not deserving of the encomiums you have so lavishly bestowed upon him. A captain's commission ! had he valued your services in a proper light, he would have given you the command of a regiment. But I find that the same partiality takes place in the army as at court.

At present, I am in a state of real solitude, I have no person to converse with, my child, who was the delight of my old age, and in some measure served to alleviate my afflictions,

afflictions, is now a stranger to me, and I am obliged to sit down in silence. How long will this wretchedness continue? Shall I spend the remainder of my days in misery, or will my all-accomplished friend once more honour me with a visit. It would be charitable, Frederic, and make some amends for the disobedience of a rebellious daughter, whose conduct has almost brought me to the grave: excuse a tear, but wherever you are, to hear from you will be at least a particular consolation; therefore let me beg only one letter more, if this should reach you before the enemy has put an end to all your hopes of future preferment.

JEREMY WATSON.

*From Lord B—— to FREDERIC
LOVEMORE.*

MY DEAR FREDERIC,

THIS is the last letter you will receive from me till I return from London, for it is now settled that my sister's nuptials shall be celebrated at the house of Lord L——, which has been elegantly fitted up for that purpose. I wish that my sister's heart may be reconciled to the match, but I am afraid, from a variety of circumstances in her conduct, that she has an utter aversion to it. But for all that, she is extremely chearful, and much more so than when the appearances of it were at a greater distance. Possibly she is in the same state with those,
who,

who, being threatened with the severity of torture, tremble at the thoughts of the rack, but when the dreadful period arrives, meet their fate with a fortitude that could not have been expected.

I have just returned from taking an airing with her in my aunt's coach, and I have begged of her, if her heart was otherwise engaged, she would make me her confident, and unbosom her whole mind to me, as her most faithful friend.

She told me that nothing could have given her greater pleasure than the happiness of having a particular friend to converse with; and although she had been only acquainted with a young lady who had treated her with great respect, yet she had now assumed so much pride and haughtiness, that she resolved not to trouble her any further. “ But I have another friend

B 5

“ (said

“ (said she) although I know not
 “ where she resides, yet I shall al-
 “ ways respect her, and hope that
 “ one day I shall be happy in her
 “ company, although that privilege
 “ is denied me at present.”

“ Pray how long have you been
 “ acquainted with this friend
 “ (sister) and what would you give
 “ for a few lines from her? Stop,
 “ I will answer for you. Last
 “ night, merely by accident, as I
 “ was walking out, and reflecting
 “ on the orders given by my father,
 “ to bring all letters to him; I met
 “ William with one in his hand,
 “ and took it from him; imagining
 “ that it must have come from that
 “ favourite lover upon whom my
 “ amiable sister's affections were
 “ placed. I thought that you
 “ would in gratitude acquaint me
 “ with the contents, and therefore
 “ here it is; perhaps it may come
 “ from

“ from such a friend as I could
 “ wish you happy with.”

When she had perused it, she presented it to me, desired me to read it, which I would have declined, but she insisted upon it, and would not hear any excuse. She told me that my kindness to her, in this, and all other respects, would always command her gratitude, and likewise, that she would in a little time make me her confident, but was much surprized that her father should give orders to bring all letters to him.

“ I never received many letters (said
 “ she) except from my aunt, and
 “ he was too well acquainted with
 “ the contents of them to make
 “ any manner of enquiry.” She asked me whether I would admit her friend’s letters to come to me in the way of confidence, to which I answered, that she might always

B 6 depend.

depend on my fidelity to oblige her to the utmost of my power.

I have sent you a copy of this letter, that I may have your opinion of the accomplishments of my sister's young friend. She is about two years younger than Isabella, and they first became acquainted at the boarding-school. She has a great flow of spirits, a ready wit, and my sister tells me that her person is not only agreeable but handsome.

It is some pleasure to me to hear that you have been preferred merely in consequence of your merit, although I am afraid it will one day cost you your life.

Since I wrote to you last, my health has been in a great measure re-established, so that at present I have no reason to complain. I hope you find by your friend Mr. Watson's letter, that he is well; and in my opinion, you could not do better

ter than return the young lady's love, by an exchange of your hand, accompanied by your heart: but I know you will not act improperly, and I am sure you cannot be cruel. Farewell, my friend, may Providence protect you in the midst of all the dangers of a campaign; and may you once more make me happy with your company.

B——.

CHARLOTTE,

CHARLOTTE, *Countess of G——*, to
FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

FREDERIC,

YOU have already obliged me with an account of some of your adventures, and some of your love-letters; and I doubt not but you are vain enough to believe, that every person who seems fond must make you a present of a heart. I really believe, that would you abide by my instructions, you would in time become an author with no small degree of reputation.

My last was broke off abruptly, with an account that some persons waited for me below; and who do you think it was! my offended, my enraged lover, who was
so

so much displeased at my going along with the young military officer. As he appeared extremely melancholy, and as much dejected as a general when he is obliged to send an account of his being defeated to his sovereign; in order to convince him that I was not altogether destitute of good-nature, I consented to go to the opera. You know that I am not yet honoured with the appellation of a wife; no, Frederic, I am still the adored mistress; so that I have no connexions as yet with the odious word duty. I have a sovereign authority over all my actions, and as I know that I shall, when I am married, be deprived of that privilege, so I am resolved to make as much of my time as possible.

Possibly you may smile at what I have told you; and although one who has stolen many hearts, yet
you

you will say, I am a wild, foolish girl. It may be so, but I do not care. Possibly my reign of sovereign authority may not be long; therefore, as it will be all over when I am a wife, let me indulge my humour at present.

CHARLOTTE G——.

ISABELLA

ISABELLA to CHARLOTTE, Countess of G——.

MY AMIABLE FRIEND,

LET me beg that you will forgive me for not sending an answer to your letter, because it was not owing to any fault in me. I knew not where to direct : and although I often desired to find an opportunity of corresponding with my dear Charlotte, yet I was deprived of the happiness, not by choice but necessity. I assure you, my dear, I wanted all the consolation that I had reason to expect from such a friend as you ; I longed to unbosom my heart with respect to some things of great importance, but my amiable
Charlotte

Charlotte was too far removed from her unhappy friend.

I am going to make you my confident; I know your fidelity, and shall therefore solicit your assistance to procure me lodgings in some place where I may be concealed, at least till a storm which I am now threatened with is blown over. The more retired the place is, the better I shall esteem it; and lest any enquiry should be made, I will pay them before-hand for one year's board and lodging. I must also beg you, that you will not lose any time, but be as expeditious as possible, because I am determined to make an elopement, and I have but little time to spare.

The truth is, my father has made choice of a husband for me, but my heart has been long disposed of in favour of another. I think it will at least be of some service to my intended

tended spouse, to remove my person out of the way, rather than give a hand where I have not a heart to bestow. If I remain here, all my efforts to maintain my liberty will avail me nothing, for my father is determined that I shall comply with his will, so that I know not of any other method that can be taken ; I embrace it with reluctance, but then you will remember, that I am forced to it by necessity.

Possibly you may think it strange that I love, and yet am not loved in return ; but the particulars are too many for me to communicate to you at present, therefore I shall defer them till I see you, when you may depend upon being intrusted with the whole secret. My brother has behaved to me with the greatest generosity, I shall never be able to repay his kindness, but he must accept of my grateful thanks
instead.

instead of a more adequate acknowledgment.

I have ordered a servant in whom I can put the utmost confidence, to be ready to attend me on a minutes notice, and therefore shall expect to hear from you as soon as possible.

I am,

Your ever sincere friend,

ISABELLA.

CHARL.

CHARLOTTE, *Countess of G—*,
in answer.

MY DEAR ISABELLA,

WHAT arguments can I make use of to urge you on to a measure attended with so much uncertainty, unless the case was stated in a proper manner. I am not, however, insensible of the nature of your request, and therefore have not lost one moment; so that I can now assure you, I have found a place of retirement for my dear Isabella, where she may enjoy herself without interruption.

But, in the name of fortune, do you intend to run away for a man who does not love you? When I first heard of this scheme of yours, I thought, that undoubtedly your
swain,

swain, your favourite lover, the person upon whom you have placed your affections, was at the head of it! That he was the principal director, and conducted the whole of the operations!

But for all this, so far as I am able to hear, he knows nothing at all of the matter; so that the whole is a plan invented by yourself. I will, however, give over all manner of raillery, and, as the subject is serious, give me leave to write a few lines suitable to it.

I think it will be very improper to trust yourself in the company of any one of your own sex as a conductor through all the hardships of a fatiguing journey. I would, therefore, beg leave to be permitted to send you a person in whose fidelity I can confide, and who is well acquainted with the road, who shall be in readiness within a few miles
of

of your house, upon a signal given, where he shall deliver a letter as from me, containing the following lines :

Safe o'er the dark and dreary shore,
 In quest of thee I'll run ;
 Love with his lamp shall run before,
 And break the circling gloom.

When you arrive at the place of relief, I shall expect to hear from you, because I doubt not but you will meet with some of your own sex there, who, so far as I am able to learn, are not altogether disagreeable in their conversation.

The distance is a considerable way from our house, but my mamma intends to visit the place soon, for this reason : that she is obliged to travel a good deal upon account of her health. I have sent the person who is to attend you, with
 strict

strict orders to be at the place appointed in one week at farthest; and, if he should not meet with you the first time, to wait every night for one month; so that it will be your own fault if you let slip so favourable an opportunity.

Farewell, my friend, may happiness for ever attend, and bring you once more to the arms of

Your

CHARLOTTE.

ISSABELLA.

ISABELLA, to CHARLOTTE,
Countess of G——.

My ever amiable Friend,

THANK God, my dear, I am safely arrived in this solitary though pleasant retirement, but at the same time greatly fatigued both in body and mind. The second day after I received your letter, I made my escape, or if you please elopement from that house where I was born, and nourished with every sort of parental tenderness. The person you sent me, met me at the place appointed, but my spirits were so exhausted that I knew not what to say to him. I did not imagine that I should be such a coward, but none of us are known till we are tried. Nay, so intimidated was I,

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that I frequently resolved to return back.

What my honoured father and dear brother would suffer upon the occasion, as soon as my departure was known, affected me in a very sensible manner; but alas! I knew of no other step that I could take in the unhappy condition I then was.

But what thanks shall I return to my amiable friend, for all the care she took in preserving me from a hateful match, and providing for me a place of retirement altogether suitable to my most sanguine hopes, and even beyond what I had reason to expect. I need not entertain you with flattery, as that you know is contrary to my nature; and possibly the time may come, that I may have an opportunity of giving you a convincing proof of my gratitude in a much better manner than can be expressed in words.

As

As the place you have provided for me is quite solitary, so it is altogether suitable to me in my present circumstances. All the young ladies are assiduous who shall contribute most towards making my miserable life as happy as possible; but one of them has attracted my notice and gained my esteem much beyond the others. She has something about her extremely agreeable; and I never see her but I remember the idea of my dear friend Charlotte, with whom I have spent so many agreeable hours. But possible she never yet had any thing to disturb her pleasure of mind; whereas I have, for a long time, suffered nothing but disappointments and hardships by my father's striving to force my inclinations. I can write no more; I cannot mention the name of an indulgent parent, without reflecting that I was

under the cruel necessity of disobeying his commands. O ! my Charlotte, excuse a tear of filial duty, as a tribute to parental tenderness ! I may yet be reconciled to him ; soon may that period arrive, to the happiness of the wretched

ISABELLA.

CHARL.

CHARLOTTE, *Countess of G—*,
to ISABELLA.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

AFTER a longer silence than is consistent with that friendship I always professed to have for you, I now sit down in order to try whether I cannot humble my spirits so far as to write a little to the once charming Isabella. Indeed I had resolved in my mind, never to write to you any more, for this plain reason, that I have not received any answer to such letters as I have already sent ; but my friendship has got the better of my resentment, and I am resolved to try you once more. My mamma thinks, that some of my letters have not been delivered,

and as we are removed from the place where we resided when I heard from you last, then you would be ignorant of a proper direction; but if you intend to be again taken into favour, you must endeavour to make up that deficiency that has happened in the course of our correspondence, otherwise there will be one everlasting breach made in that friendship which has so long subsisted between us; a friendship contracted in those tender years when we were mere strangers to the vices and follies of the world; before ambition could take place in our hearts, or envy find room in our bosoms.

I doubt not you have had many admirers, your charms and accomplishments entitle you to that privilege, and therefore be free and open, not concealing any thing from me; but give me a particular detail of all
the

the conquests you have made, which will serve to divert me in this state of solitude, where I have not one friend to converse with. You see from this sample, that neither time nor distance has made the least change in your friend's behaviour, and as my mamma says, I am the same impatient creature as when you first knew me.

I have been teased for several days with a new lover; and all that I have heard from morning till night, has been nothing more than encomiums on his sincerity, his fortune, and his honourable intentions. Indeed, the spark is a very apt scholar, and leaves no means untried to second the proposal made by my relations; but as ill luck would have it, he vexed me so a few days ago with his idle conjectures, that without any ceremony I gave him a blow

on the head, as a specimen of what he was to expect if ever I was his wife.

Was not I a wild girl, Isabella? I fear you will say so, but I am not at all concerned; if he lets me alone I shall not disturb him, but if he continues to teaze me in this manner, he must expect such consequences as may not be agreeable. Let me hear from you; and be assured, notwithstanding all my foolish airs, I still wish you well,

And am your sincere friend,

CHARLOTTE G——.

FREDERIC

FREDERIC LOVEMORE to JEREMY
WATSON, *Esq;*

My ever honoured Friend,

YOUR friendly letter filled with such profession of benevolence, and containing so many lucrative offers will always be considered by me in the most grateful light; although I know it to be inconsistent with that plan I have laid down for the regulations of my future conduct, ever to accept of it.

Gratitude, I hope, is in some manner implanted in my nature, at least I am vain enough to think so, and indeed it is impossible for me to express my sentiments with a becoming propriety. How could I bear to reflect on the unhappiness that the worthy marquis's family would be involved in, in consequence

quence of my seducing Isabella into a clandestine act. Could I live while I know myself to be so guilty, so ungrateful a wretch! O God! let my miserable life be the willing sacrifice, and then the cause is removed. Undoubtedly the young lady would return to receive her father's blessing, whose arms of compassion might be open to receive her; but what could I say in vindication of my own conduct!

You will receive a letter inclosed; and let me beg that you will not neglect any opportunity of writing to me, as that will always afford some consolation to a troubled mind, tortured between the anxieties of love on the one hand, and the fear of incurring the imputation of ingratitude on the other.

FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

JEREMY

JEREMY WATSON, *to* CAPTAIN
FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN,

FOR what purpose did I send you such good advice in my last letter, when so far as I am able to learn, you do not intend to follow it? But I can, without the gift of prophecy, see what will be the fatal consequence, for the young lady has eloped from her father; probably she will never be more heard of, and the accomplished Frederic Lovemore, whose merit has raised him to an honourable rank in the army will, in a short time, die in a mad-house. Fine work indeed! and all because you make such a mighty bustle about

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your

your pretences to gratitude, and I know not what.

If you will not abide by my former advice, I shall not give you any other ; so that you may do as you please. Whatever may happen, you have only yourself to blame ; and if you go on in the same pusillanimous manner as you have hitherto, I shall look upon you as a poor, pitiful fellow, not worthy of a command in the army, and much less so of a handsome young lady, who is willing to give you both her hand and her heart.

I must for all that, Frederic, acknowledge that you have still some sincerity about you ; but as Lord B—— is your friend, let me beg that you will not conceal from him his sister's passion. Lord B—— has a heart susceptible of the most tender impression ; and, so far as I am able to learn, he would wish to see

see his sister happy in your arms,
rather than unhappy in the enjoy-
ment of a coronet, or all the blan-
dishments of dress, which in their
own nature are only trifling.

JEREMY WATSON.

FREDERIC

FREDERIC LOVEMORE *to*
LORD B——.

MY LORD,

AND what is still a more amiable appellation, My ever-valuable friend, I received your obliging letter; and as I had an opportunity of writing, I doubt not but this will meet you before you set out for London. The epistle you sent me from the lady, has given me a great deal of pleasure, for it seems to be the effusions of a most lively mind, and a sprightly genius. I doubt not but the amiable lady Isabella, will at last become reconciled to the match proposed for her, as it must undoubtedly be of considerable advantage. Her being obliged to leave
her

her parents, may make her for some time uneasy, but that will soon be blown over, as she will in consequence of that connection, contract an alliance of a more sacred nature. I hope her resolution will be diverted from any rash steps, especially such as may injure herself, or dishonour her family.

None can tell what I feel, for when my dear Lord B—— complains of a bad state of health, it is like a sword piercing through my vitals; but I hope all these are now over, and you have regained your former vivacity. I am much pleased to hear, that Mrs. Watson is well; but if you imagine I entertain a passion for her daughter, you are very much mistaken, for my thoughts were never fixed upon her, nor was she ever in possession of my heart. You know, that her fortune is far superior to any thing that I have

reason

reason to expect; and I dare say, you would have a mean opinion of Frederic Lovemore, were you to hear that he had run away with a young lady. Whatever you may think, I can assure you, that if I have any ambition, it is only to do my duty as a soldier, and convince my generous patron, that I am not altogether ungrateful.

FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

FREDERIC

FREDERIC LOVEMORE, *to* JEREMY
WATSON, *Esq;*

MY WORTHY FRIEND,

I Am extremely obliged to you for your kind letter; and as for your agreeable raillery, it convinces me of your goodness of heart; but be assured, I shall neither wish my destruction wifully where my duty is not concerned, nor shall I be so foolish as to become a friar, and confine myself within the walls of a convent. No, Mr. Watson, I am not such an enemy to liberty, I love freedom; and whatever you may think to the contrary, I can assure you, that while the lovely Isabella is safe, I shall consider myself as happy. No consideration shall ever force me to be ungrateful, especially
to

to so generous a benefactor as the marquis, and therefore no encouragement shall ever be given by me to a proposal that would bring dishonour upon his family.

I acknowledge, that I left a letter for her by her own desire, but I think her good sense will enable her to look upon it rather as formal advice than the effusion of love, so that the effects will soon be known. To hear that such an event takes place will give me the utmost pleasure, and I shall notwithstanding my unhappy passion, still wish to see her happy.

By a letter which I have received from Lord B——, I find that Isabella is to be married to Lord L——, and that the day is fixed on for celebrating the nuptials. Whether this may happen or not I cannot say, but as I wish all manner of happiness to the marquis, so I shall hope

hope that she is now a happy wife. I have no news to entertain you with, for surely you cannot be pleased to read the journal of a campaign where our time is spent in all the horrors of war. Let me hear from you often; and be assured, that while I can hold a pen, I shall not forget my friend.

FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

Lord

Lord B—— to FREDERIC
LOVEMORE.

O Frederic ! how wretched is your once happy friend ! How shall my pen describe our affliction ! But possibly when I have opened my mind to you I may find some rest, for at present I can find none.

My amiable, my unhappy sister is gone, and no person can give us the least account of her ; we are not so much as acquainted with the road she has taken, nor does it appear, that any of the family were acquainted with her design. It is true, I had some suspicion that she meditated a scheme of that nature, and was confirmed therein when I reflected that she had lately begun a correspondence with Charlotte, the
young

young lady whom I have already mentioned.

Such were my sentiments at first, but I have received a letter from Charlotte, in answer to one I sent her; and she not only declares her ignorance of the elopement, but at the same time blamed my sister for acting so inconsistent with her character and honour. She says further, that she supposes my sister has entered into the marriage state in a clandestine manner; and therefore she did not chuse to correspond with her any longer, but would if she wrote to her, return her letter unopened.

My father is much affected with this unlooked-for occurrence, and blames himself as the cause, wishing that he had never sought to force his beloved daughter's inclinations. Lord L——, my intended brother-in-law, has left nothing

thing undone to discover the place
 of her retirement, but all in vain :
 and my father has endeavoured to
 dissuade him from all thoughts of
 the matter ; because that if ever he
 shall be so happy as to hear of her,
 he is determined to leave her to her
 own free choice. My aunt has just
 returned with Lord L——, to
 their town house, declaring, that Isa-
 bella shall never be admitted to her
 presence, nor enjoy one shilling of
 her fortune. I hope she will find
 him a wife among her numerous
 acquaintance, for you know, old
 aunts are always match-makers ; but
 she has occasioned so much un-
 happiness in our family already, that
 I shall never desire to see her here
 again. Had it not been for her,
 my father would never have driven
 my sister to take so fatal a step, but
 she kept incessantly teasing him so,
 that

that he had no rest either day or night.

I intend setting out to morrow to search for her in every place that I can think of; for, if she is not found, I am afraid the consequence will prove fatal to my honoured father, and bring him with sorrow to the grave.

When I was first informed of the affair, and that my sister was gone, my grief was inexpressible, because it came upon me in the most unexpected manner. The evening before she set out, esh, Lord L——, and myself, took a walk in the gardens, and as the weather was exceeding fine, she appeared much more chearful than usual, but I never thought my sister could so well act the part of a hypocrite. Women, Frederic, are weak, but they are cunning; what they cannot manage
by

by strength, they accomplish by dissimulation.

About ten she retired to her apartment, and as she used to be up pretty soon in the morning, we were a good deal surpris'd when she did not appear as usual to breakfast. The maid was desired to call her, but not finding that she arrived, came and told us, that she believed she was asleep, for she did not hear her stirring. She went again several times, but not receiving any answer, my father ordered the servants to break open the door; for he began to be afraid that something more than ordinary was the matter with her. This being done, we all went into the room, but how great was our surprize, when we found that she had not been in bed at all, nor was there any appearance of her having been in the room.

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The gallery as well as all the apartments in the house were searched in vain, and the servants were separately examined, whether any of them knew of her elopement; but they all denied it, declaring, that they never knew any thing of the matter. They were all dispatched several ways, but although they went all about the country, yet they returned in the evening, without the least intelligence; at which my father became disconsolate, and shed abundance of tears. Oh! Frederic, I know you have a compassionate heart, open to sympathize with your friends, I now want all your advice; and how happy should I esteem myself, could I have had the pleasure of finding you here. Will you solicit leave to visit us, I have none but you to consult with, and you are no stranger to that regard which I have for my

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sister. If you cannot come, let me
beg at least that you will give
me a few lines, which will at least
be some consolation to the afflicted

B——.

FREDERIC

FREDERIC LOVEMORE *in Answer.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,

WHILE I am sorry that the dear young lady has acted imprudently, I cannot help thinking at the same time that she will, by a becoming conduct, take such measures as will preserve her from ruin. I do not blame you for your fears, I am certain they are well founded, and I hope that no fatal consequences will happen to my ever honoured patron the marquis. Heavens forbid that his valuable life should be shortened! for were that to happen, how wretched would be the condition of the lovely Isabella! But I cannot proceed; for instead of administering comfort, I can only add fuel to

D 2

that

that flame of misery that now creeps upon your spirits.

I cannot help it, I am a real sharer in all your afflictions; and you whose mind is formed for sympathy, can feel for your wretched Frederic. Happy should I think myself could I have been indulged with the privilege to visit my honourable friends, but alas! that is inconsistent with my duty in the army, where every one is obliged to prefer the love of his country to to the most sacred ties of private friendship. Our commander in chief, is every day honouring me with new marks of his regard; but although glory may be the stimulating motive to action with some others, yet with me I have but two objects in view; namely, duty and gratitude. At present I can assure you, that there is some hopes of my seeing you soon, because the
 enemy

enemy has made proposals towards bringing about the preliminaries towards a general peace; and we have only suspended hostilities till the arrival of the messenger who has been dispatched to court, in order to bring us such an answer as shall enable us to know how to proceed.

When he arrives, and our commander has received a satisfactory answer from his majesty, you will soon know whether it is in my power to see you or not. If it is, I shall come to you directly, with a heart filled with gratitude for every favour. But if we are again called to take the field, your own goodness of nature will induce you to impute the cause to that duty I owe to my country. In the mean time,

I am sincerely yours,

FREDERIC LOVEMORE

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FRED.

FREDERIC LOVEMORE, *to* JEREMY
WATSON, *Esq;*

MY DEAR FRIEND,

MY unhappiness is now greater than what you ever prognosticated for me: the lovely Isabella is no more, at least she is not to be found, for no person can give any account of her. She has left her father's house without any one in the family knowing of it; and although the most diligent search has been made for her, yet all is hitherto in vain.

Alas! my friend, for any thing I know, she may even at this time be wandering in some unfrequented desert place without one person to administer her the least comfort, exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather, and the prejudices of
the

the world. My mind is too much affected to dwell long on the thought, and where can I take myself for comfort.

On the other hand, I imagine her noble and generous father expiring in the arms of his beloved son, while neither of them know that the unhappy cause is the wretched Frederic Lovemore.

My dear friend, let me beg that you will write to the marquis, and tell him, that I am the villain who has robbed him of all that was dear to him in the world. Lay open to him all my deceitfulness, and then he will know what a viper he has nourished in his bosom, and then let him pronounce me the most wretched that ever existed. My heart is too full, I can say no more, and therefore let me once more subscribe myself

Your sincere friend,

FRED. LOVEMORE.

CHARLOTTE, *Countess of G—*,
to ISABELLA.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I Hope you are by this time in better health and peace of mind, or like a bird, you are now reconciled to your cage. I have written a letter to your brother, wherein I have so well acted the part of a dissembler, that I think he will not have any suspicion that I have been in the least privy to your elopement.

Have not I acted with spirit in this adventure? But then you will remember, it was for my friend, and not myself, otherwise, my courage would have been as weak as that of Isabella.

It gives me great pleasure to hear that some of the ladies are agreeable
to

to your taste, but let me beg that you would be careful whom you trust as your friend; because, it is my fixed resolution to keep you to myself as long as I can. I thought to have visited my friend before this time; but the dangerous illness with which my mamma has been so long afflicted, has still prevented me from enjoying that happiness.

I had some hopes that she would have recovered, but now I begin to despair, for the physician has told her, that her illness is now more dangerous than ever. I am just ordered to attend her, for unless I am with her, she is extremely uneasy, but I seldom give her any reason to complain, for my duty and love are both sincere. I hope to see you soon; adieu, my dear friend, may you be happy in your retirement.

CHARLOTTE G——.

D 5

JEREMY

JEREMY WATSON, *Esq*; to
Lord B——.

MY LORD,

I Doubt not but you will be surprized to receive a letter from me with whom you are not personally acquainted, but an unexpected occurrence has obliged me to take this freedom. Your amiable and admired friend, Captain Frederic Lovemore, lies dangerous ill at my house. He arrived here on his way to your family-seat about ten days ago; and would have proceeded on his journey, but as it was late, I prevailed on him to remain only one night, to which the worthy young gentleman consented.

In the morning, I sent a servant to invite him to breakfast, but alas!
he

he was in a high fever, utterly insensible, and raving in a delirium. I have sent for the most eminent physicians to attend him, and whatever may happen, be assured, that nothing shall be wanting on my part to preserve his valuable life. As my regard for him arises from motives of friendship founded on his superior merits, so I should be extremely sorry, were he to be cut off in the prime of life.

I believe there are not many such young gentlemen as he to be met with, at least I may say so, for in him I always found a sincere friend, a sensible companion, and both in mind and person few equal him. But why do I tell you of his accomplishments, seeing you had an opportunity of knowing him long before me. If it was a meritorious action in the noble and generous marquis, to prevent him from ruin,

and furnish his mind with knowledge, by which he has been prevented from the corruption of the age, I am sure his merits are able to repay him. I hope your lordship, and your worthy family, are all in a good state of health; and you may rest assured, that nothing shall be wanting on my part that can be of service to your friend. I shall esteem it an honour if you will favour me with a few lines, and I shall subscribe myself

Your sincere well-wisher,

JEREMY WATSON.

Lord

Lord B——, in Answer.

S I R,

YOUR letter has filled me with much concern for the danger my dear friend is in; and you may be assured, that I would have hastened to his assistance, at least to administer what help I could; but alas! have been detained here by a very serious affair.

My honoured father has been a considerable time so ill that I have despaired of his life, nor will he suffer me out of his sight. Ten thousand thanks for your kindness to my ever honoured, my ever beloved friend; for by that, you have laid me under obligations that can
never

never be discharged. May heaven preserve his valuable life! I hope, yet, to see you and him at our house. If he recovers, and begins to walk, I hope you will bring him here, and honour us with your company; for the unhappy elopement of my sister has thrown such a gloominess over us, that I believe it will never be dispelled, unless we should once more be happy with her presence; but alas! whether that period will ever arrive or not, we cannot say; for search has been in vain been made every where that we could think of for her. My father intreats you to come here, if poor Frederic recovers, so that I beg you will not let any trifling occurrence deprive us of the pleasure we expect to have in your company. In the mean time, I must beg of you to let me know the state of his recovery,

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recovery, for I hope by this time
he is better; and tell him what I
suffer for him.

I am your sincere

And affectionate friend,

E——.

ISABELLA

ISABELLA to CHARLOTTE,
Countess of G——.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I AM just the same as when I wrote to you last, my mind being greatly distressed, when I reflect on the unhappiness that must be felt by the best of parents, who before the proposals of marriage were made to me was all indulgence. I wish it had been in my power to comply with his proposals; but alas, I could not: why was I born with passions? I am really miserable. O! what would I not give to hear from my ever dear and honoured papa? But you have not received any answer to your letter sent to my brother. Let me beg that you will write another to him, desiring to know whether
 he

he has heard of me ; and possibly in return, he may mention something of my father's being ill, which God forbid ! for then I should look upon myself as the cause, a thought that would be more lamentable to me than the fear of death, or any thing that can be imagined.

I am much delighted with the company of the young lady whom I mentioned in my letter ; her name is Emilia, at least she is called so, but some of the other ladies imagine that is not her real name, and that she has concealed herself on account of some love-affair. It is however agreed among us, not to ask her such questions as might be disagreeable ; for undoubtedly, she would tell us, had she not reasons for acting in a contrary manner.

But whatever may be the reason for her coming here, nothing seems to discompose her mind, for she has
a most

a most charming flow of spirits. My dear Charlotte, I hope your honoured mamma is better ; you are happy in her company, which is a blessing I have long been deprived of by the cold hand of death. Do not forget to write to my brother, and be assured, that if my friends were ever so numerous, yet the first place in my heart shall be open for you. Let me hear from you soon, which will be some consolation to the miserable.

ISABELLA..

JEREMY

JEREMY WATSON *to Lord B*——.

MY LORD,

IT is with pleasure I am able to inform you, that our amiable friend is something better, although still extremely weak ; so that I am afraid his disorder will end in a consumption. The once blooming Frederic is now become a skeleton, and I think you would not know him, so much alteration has sickness made on one who diffused chearfulness wherever he came.

However, if his health is once established, his wonted chearfulness will return, and once more delight his friends. I am able to feel for your father, his affliction being similar to my own ; I have found a longer trial of it than him, for it is
a con-

a confiderable time fince my Louifa left me in the fame manner.

Your fifter could not be a greater favourite than my amiable daughter; her accomplishments charmed all who knew her, and every thing delightful fhone in her countenance: few could fee her, and look upon her charms with indifference; befides, her fortune is very large. She was deeply in love with your Frederic, when he firft went into the army; and I do affure you, I was fo fenfible of his merit, that I offered him my confent; but for reasons that will appear hereafter, he fo convinced both me and her, that fhe prudently fuppreffed a paffion that could not be gratified.

With refpect to your invitation, I fhall certainly comply with it, and do myfelf the honour of fpending a few days with your father, to whom, I fuppofe, my company
will

will be more agreeable than to you. I have learned where my daughter is, and shall go to visit her, when I depart from your house ; for unless I make a formal demand of her, I do not believe she will come home, but I am determined not to be any longer without her. Frederic begs that you will not be uneasy on his account, as he hopes soon to get the better of all his complaints ; and he desires, that you would present his duty to his ever honoured patron, the marquis. He hopes that you have heard something of the young lady, and presents his love to you.

JEREMY WATSON.

CHAR-

CHARLOTTE, *Countess of G—*,
to ISABELLA.

WELL, my dear Isabella, I think you are almost as ingenious in contriving schemes as myself. I have done as you desired me, and you will see by the inclosed that I have had interest sufficient to procure an answer, which I have sent as soon as it came to my hands. I do assure you he speaks of his runaway sister in more tender expressions than I imagined, and much more so than I believe a brother of mine would have done, supposing I had one. I am really in love with his superior merit, but please to let me know whether he has yet placed his affections on any lady, or has your superannuated aunt provided him with a wife. I am afraid so; otherwise I might have had

had some hopes of one day lolling about the streets with a marquis's coronet on my coach.

He mentions that your father has been considerably indisposed, but do not let that grieve you, as I am pretty sure he will soon get the better of it. But possibly he acts the hypocrite, in order to get you back, and then the Lord have mercy upon you, for you will never have another opportunity to escape, let your doom be ever so dreadful. Take my advice, and keep yourself still concealed, at least for some weeks, till I have sent an answer to your brother, assuring him that as I am surprized at your elopement so I shall take every opportunity of making enquiry for you, and giving him the first notice I can procure.

It is really diverting that you should imagine all the young ladies
where

where you are to be such very love-sick girls as yourself, that they have all given their old fathers and aunts the slip because husbands were provided for them, not agreeable to their own whimsical inclinations. I wonder your friend has not yet opened her mind to you; she is certainly a fly girl, but for any thing I can see, I believe I must become one of your number, especially if my mamma continues to tease me with her encomiums on my lover.

What do you think of the name of husband, my dear Isabella? I wonder how my pen could write the frightful word; for I am sure I shall abhor the sound, at least these ten years. My mamma says she cannot live much longer, and therefore is desirous to see me married before she dies, that I may be left under the protection
of

of a spouse when she is no more. I hate the name, I wish she would recover, and live these thirty years, and then I should have prudence sufficient to look out for some good sort of a man, whom I might manage as I pleased.

O! there is nothing like dear liberty. I wonder whether your lover is concerned at your flight, but possibly he has some other mistress who may engross his affections, while the lovely Isabella is suffering so much for him. But I am got into a wicked strain of raillery, and cannot send you one word of comfort, so excuse me till such time as my mind becomes more serious; for I see so much of the practice of many despairing lovers, that I cannot help laughing at their follies when they intend to deceive. I am, &c.

CHARLOTTE G——.

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E

Lord

LORD B——, to CHARLOTTE
Countess of G——.

MY DEAR MADAM,

THE absence of my sister and the affliction we have suffered for her, is the reason why you have not sooner had an answer to your letter. I continue to flatter myself that if you had the least thought of the place of her concealment, you would in pity to my father have sent me notice. It would be the greatest mark of your kindness to the distressed, for my father's health is very much impaired by the unhappy event.

She was his beloved daughter; and although my aunt imprudently, from motives of avarice and ambition,

bition, pressed him to force her inclinations, yet he has now changed his mind, and she has nothing to fear. He is ready to receive her with open arms, and all those marks of parental kindness with which he always treated her.

He has given notice to Lord L——, that he must give up all thoughts of Isabella, as he is determined to leave her to her own free choice, without laying any restraint on her inclinations. He declares he never will insist on her altering her condition unless it is by her own choice, with one wholly agreeable to her mind. Her aunt has left the house, declaring she will never visit us more, with which both my father and myself are extremely well pleased, for we never had any pleasure in her company.

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I hope

I hope if you have the least reason to imagine that she is concealed in your neighbourhood you will let me know, as she has nothing to fear, and such an act of kindness shall be for ever gratefully acknowledged, by one whose affliction may be felt by the benevolent, although it cannot be so easily expressed.

B——.

Lord

Lord B—— to JEREMY WATSON,
E/q;

SIR,

I AM extremely pleased to hear of my dear Frederic's recovery, and I hope it will not be long before I have the pleasure of seeing you both. We have not yet heard of my sister, which makes us extremely miserable, and my father I believe will sink under the heavy load of his affliction.

It is a pleasure to hear what honour you intended to my dear Frederic, by offering him your daughter, as well as the many other favours you have shewn him. For my own part, I cannot imagine what could be his

E 3 reasons

reasons for rejecting an offer so much to his advantage, especially as he had no connections with any other, so far as I know. But then it is possible that he did not think proper to acquaint us with that part of his conduct. If he has placed his affections on any lady worthy of his choice, then I shall readily forgive him. Possibly he might have been afraid that I would fall in love with his mistress, and so rob him of all that was dear to him in the world; so that he would not let me have any knowledge of her till he was sure of his lovely prize. I know not whether I ought to forgive him, but if he has any intention to merit my favour, and regain my friendship, he must write me a few lines in order to clear up that part of his conduct, for I shall not be satisfied till I have
it

it from himself. As my father is desirous of seeing Frederic in his wonted chearfulness, he advises him to take as much care of himself as possible, so that we may have the pleasure of seeing both you and him in a little time, which will be very agreeable as well as acceptable.

B——.

ISABELLA to CHARLOTTE
Countess of G——.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I Return you my sincere thanks both for your kind epistle and also for the one inclosed from my brother. I have got one which I would beg you to peruse, and if it seems agreeable to you seal it up, and direct it to my father. I think it will be improper for you to let them know that you are acquainted with the place of my concealment, but only to ask some questions of my brother, whether he has yet heard any thing of me; for by that means you will be able to sift them more deeply, and find out the true state of their minds.
I think

I think before you send the letter inclosed, it would be proper to have another from my brother, and then you might, in return, say it came to you without any post mark, or the messenger waiting for an answer.

It gives me no small pleasure to hear that your mama is somewhat recovered, and I must own I should esteem myself happy, were you married to one who merits your hand and heart, before she is taken away from you.

I think it will be best not to let my father know where I am till I am perfectly satisfied that he will never more insist on the marriage with Lord L——. I should be glad to hear more explicitly what notion he has formed of my conduct, because I am of opinion that he blames me very much. But alas! by this time he may be no

more. Such may also be the case with my dear lover, he may blame me, or what is worse, some fatal stroke may have deprived me of him for ever. No, I cannot bear the killing thought; let him still live, if not for me yet for another, and then I will endeavour to comply with my father's will; although I am sure I should then be completely wretched. Oh! my Frederick, why was your person and conversation so engaging? Why did your accomplishments present themselves to my ravished eyes with an irresistible force? why, but to make the unhappy Isabella wretched for ever. Why was you selected by my father and brother from the rest of the family? Oh, little did they think that you was the person that must destroy my happiness.

But

But where am I going? my foolish pen has betrayed me, and I have revealed a secret unknown before. I am to blame, my friend, for letting my pen run on the fatal subject; but yet, possibly I may one day get the better of this unhappy passion, at least I will endeavour to do so, although I cannot be sure that I shall succeed.

Emilia has just received orders from her father, who has discovered the place of her concealment, to get herself in readiness to go home, as he is to come for her in a few months. He tells her that he is to be on a visit some part of the way, after which he will come here, and expects that she will not have any objection to return. Her company is really charming, so that I know not what I shall do when she is gone; but before

that time it is not impossible but I may be gone from this place.

I shall not make myself merry, but let my beloved friend, my dear Charlotte, still write to me, as this will be the means of keeping up my spirits. Excuse the freedom I have used in unbosoming my mind, I could not help it, I was overwhelmed with sorrow, but now I find some ease in unbosoming my sentiments to my dearest friend, with whom my youthful days were spent in innocence.

I am your sincere,

Your affectionate friend,

ISABELLA.

Captain

Captain FREDERIC LOVEMORE
to Lord B——.

My dear and ever valuable Friend,

I Have once more taken up the pen to write on the agreeable subject, and to convey my sentiments to my friend. I thought to have spent many agreeable hours in your company before this time, but alas! who can discover the events of futurity.

I was seized with a sudden illness, which had almost deprived me of life, but, thank God, I am now in a fair way of recovery. When you sent me the account of your sister's elopement, it was expected that a treaty of peace would have been entered upon, but our
hopes

hopes of that event are at present vanished, so that there is little reason to expect it before the next winter.

Whilst I was reading your letter, our general came into my apartments, and asked me if I had any friends whom I was willing or desirous to see. I told him I had ; upon which he gave me his permission to visit you, and remain a few months, but I am afraid he has not yet heard of my illness ; for when I left the army I made the utmost haste, scarce stopping either for rest or refreshment till I got to my worthy friend Mr. Watson's house. I suppose that the fatigue of the journey overpowered me, for I had not slept above two hours when I awoke and found myself extremely ill of a burning fever, and soon after I became delirious,

lirious, not knowing where I was, nor who were about me.

It is impossible for me to express the innumerable obligations I am under to Mr. Watson: that worthy gentleman has attended me with even a parental tenderness; he has nursed me himself, all that was in his house has been at my service, and he has sent for the best physicians to attend me. He has just now received a letter, desiring him to go to London to take possession of a very valuable estate left him by a distant relation from whom he did not expect a shilling. He is obliged to attend in person, as it consists chiefly in land, and he intends to dispose of the whole if he can find a purchaser. For that reason he desires me to inform you he cannot have the pleasure of seeing you at the time he thought of,

of, although he will embrace the first opportunity afterwards.

I think of setting out soon, for unless I do so, I shall have but little time to spare with you. I hope my ever honoured and beneficent patron, the Marquis, is well; but how can I think so, unless the lovely Isabella is found. I feel sincerely for you both, but I will hope the best, and conclude with my duty.

FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

CHAR-

CHARLOTTE, *Countess of G—*,
to *Lord B—*.

MY LORD,

IT is in vain for you to urge me concerning the place of your amiable sister's concealment, but be assured that notice shall be transmitted to you as soon as I am acquainted with it, and sooner you cannot desire it. Isabella is not destitute of cunning, and I dare say that wherever she is, she goes by another name than her real one. I must beg you will favour me with a few lines, because I am exceeding anxious to hear how the marquis is in health, and whether he is any way resigned to his loss. Let me beg you will write soon.

CHARLOTTE G—.

Lord

CHARLOTTE, *Countess of G—*,
to ISABELLA.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I Have done once more as you desired me, and I think from my letter it will be impossible for them to form any notion of your place of retirement. That you may be convinced I have no knowledge of your lover, I have returned your last letter, that you may do with it as you please.

And would you have me to give up my freedom, and take upon me the name of wife? you may rest contented on that head, for I do assure you I have no intention of becoming a slave these dozen years, as that will be soon enough in all conscience. I think you entertain
too

too high notions of your lover, and I must freely tell you that I think his conduct very commendable. Would you have him come and declare his passion to your family, and be forbidden the house; while you would be locked up in your chamber. Were his distress on your account ever so great, yet he knows not where to write to you, so that you have no reason to complain of his indifference. I am sorry to hear that you are going to lose your amiable companion, but as you say you will not be much longer there, so I hope you will divest yourself of foolish notions, and be all life and spirits; or as the poet says,

No more sigh, and doat, and pine,
All ease without, and calm within,
In peace and liberty.

I wonder if your old match-
making aunt has provided another
lady

Lord B—— to FREDERIC
LOVEMORE.

MY DEAR FREDERIC,

IT gives me inexpressible pleasure to hear that you can once more employ your pen; for the account I had of your illness made me compleatly wretched. Alas! Frederic, what troubles have I gone through since I saw you; nay how many since I had a letter from you, previous to the last.

No news of the dear, the unhappy Isabella, and although my father submits to his affliction with more patience and resignation than I imagined he would; yet he is still in a poor state of health, and what will be the consequence God only knows.

For

For my part I am every day more and more puzzled about my sister's conduct, and should be glad could I learn who is the person on whom she has placed her affections; for I am well convinced that she has a secret lover, but who he is I cannot learn.

My father and myself are both sorry that we cannot have the pleasure of seeing Mr. Watson, but we beg that you will put him in mind of his promise when he has settled his business in London. You will find a letter inclosed, which I imagine was written by your invisible lover or one of her friends, but I cannot make much of it. I am glad to hear of your new promotion; you have regularly risen to honour, but I am afraid you will pay dear for it in the end. Let me beg that you will lose no time in coming here, where you will find sincere friends.

B——.

lady for your intended spouse. I think her taste is not bad, for he is allowed by many of our sex to be a very clever fellow and an agreeable companion among his own. I really believe he would have made a tolerable good husband, had not this pretty Frederic come in your way. If ever you are married to him, and he does not use you well, I shall know well how to treat him. My mamma thinks of going to town soon, which gives me no small pleasure, for I am quite tired with being moaped up here. Let me hear from you soon, and be assured that notwithstanding my levity of temper, I am still your sincere friend,

CHARLOTTE.

JEREMY

JEREMY WATSON, *Efq;* to
Lord B——.

MY LORD,

I AM exceeding sorry I cannot give myself the pleasure to wait on you at this time according to your friendly invitation and my own promise; for an unexpected event has obliged me to go to London, but as soon as my business is settled, I will come to your house. I am not yet certain how long I shall be detained here; it is an affair of some consequence, but I hope not long, as I prefer a country life to all others. It is true I spent the early part of my life with pleasure in London, but all its gaiety, hurry and diversions are now lost upon me. Youth I think should see London, because
it

it is there that they become acquainted with the world; but when we advance in years, then I think the country is more suitable.

Your friend, captain Lovemore, gets better in health every day, but I am obliged to take great care of him. I thought to have gone for my daughter, but this business has detained me, so that I shall now leave it to her own choice, either to come home or wait till my return; for I am now easy in my mind, since I know where she is.

I am, my Lord,

Yours respectfully,

JEREMY WATSON.

FREDERIC

FREDERIC LOVEMORE to
Lord B——.

MY LORD,

THE letter you sent inclosed was an order for me to join my regiment immediately, so that by this sickness I am deprived of the pleasure of seeing my dear friend, for whose sake I undertook this journey ; but who dare dispute the works of Providence.

How happy should I think myself had you sent me the news that you had heard of Isabella ; I should then have been assured that my generous patron and my beloved friend were both happy in their minds. I intend to set out in a few days, as the journey is long and I have not much time allowed me.

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F

I am

I am told that our general is of opinion that the next campaign will put an end to the war, so that I shall then have time sufficient to spend among my generous friends. Mr. Watson set out for London this day, and his daughter has sent notice that she will remain where she is till he return; because she expects he will come and accompany her home. She is afraid, she says, to travel, except in company with a friend, for all her courage has forsaken her since she left home. She says that the place of her abode is very agreeable, because of a young lady, about her own age, who treats her with every mark of respect and tenderness.

I hope, my beloved friend, that I shall always merit your esteem, as that is all the happiness I wish for in this world. I wish you had opened the letter; for by that you
would

would have been convinced that I have no connexion with any of the fair sex. I am sure I shall never enter into the marriage state without the advice and consent of my best friend ; but I am not inclined to any such thing at present.

I wish your aunt had never visited your family ; for to her I impute all your affliction. Let me beg that you will still honour me with your correspondence, which will be some comfort during the fatigues of a campaign. Farewel, my dear friend, and may every happiness attend you.

FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

ISABELLA, to CHARLOTTE,
Countess of G——.

HOW can you, my dear friend, be so very provoking, especially to one so distressed as your Isabella. Instead of sympathizing with me, you only laugh at my affliction. You are really a sad girl, I know not what to make of you: I have, however, some comfort, in that the young lady is to stay here some time longer, and if you do not take care I shall place her in your room; and then leave the wretched Charlotte to find out another.

I wonder that my brother has not told you that I sent him a letter; but I suppose I am now indifferent to all my relations. My brother is the last relation that I could have thought would ever turn
his

his back upon me; and if he do so I shall be the most wretched creature in the world. But it is my own fault; and I will submit to my punishment with resignation. I am unsatisfied with every one, but more with myself; so you must excuse me, and not treat me with the same cruelty as my relations.

When you go to town I wish you all the happiness you can reasonably desire. It is a place where I never could enjoy any pleasure, nor do I desire ever to visit it again.

I am going to ask you a question, at which I suppose you will laugh. As I am ignorant of what passes in the world, I shall be glad if you will send me word whether the war continues, with the names of such officers as have been killed; but after all, even that will not satisfy me about my Frederic. What a

foolish word have I written! but I meant Miss Louisa Watson's Frederic; and I dare say she has enjoyed many agreeable day in his presence; in his fatal but lovely company: fatal at least to me.

Oh, my friend, you never saw this man; for if you had you would excuse my admiring him. I find I am condemned to love him, let the consequences be ever so fatal; although I have no hopes that he will return my love. I am convinced that he means nothing more than common civility, and considers himself under obligations to our family; for he sent me a letter, advising me to comply with my father's will. Surely that was not like a lover. But where is my pen running to? I will put an end to this epistle; I wish I could say, my misery.

Farewel,

Farewel, my friend ; I am glad to hear that your mamma is better. Write to me often ; and remember that for all your vivacity of temper and all your natural sprightliness, you may one day be in love.

ISABELLA.

F 4

Lord

*Lord B—— to FREDERIC
LOVEMORE.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I Believe I shall experience nothing but disappointments. I thought I should have enjoyed some happiness in the company of Mr. Watton and my dear Frederic; but no sooner was my mind filled with the pleasing hope, than I was left deprived of you both. I reached out my hand for the substance, but alas! there was only a shadow. Indeed, I begin to fear that I shall never see you more. You are weak, just recovered from sickness; your journey is long; so that when you join the regiment, you will not be able to do your duty.

It is not impossible, but that some of your brother officers, when
they

they see your danger, will refuse to give you that assistance which you so generously afforded your commander. O! my Frederic, let me beg you to take care of yourself; for how wretched shall I be if I lose you :

The more our friends were generous once and kind,

The greater sorrow seizes on our mind :

By sympathy we suffer in their wounds,

Their absence grieves us, but their death confounds.

This tenderness hath bounteous nature sown
In every breast, but largely in my own.

I had some hopes that my beloved sister and ever-valuable friend would have been here, as eye-witnesses of an aged, a benevolent, and a tender parent's daily decline in health, and progress to that eternal world from whence there is no return.

We have just now received a letter from Isabella, but no direc-

tion to what place we are to send an answer. It is true she begs forgiveness of her father, but assures us that she is in a place of safety, where no harm can happen to her. She says, further, that her heart is almost broke, when she reflects on the unhappiness her conduct has occasioned to the most indulgent parent; assuring him that had his commands been of any other nature, she would have lost her life rather than disobey them. "I will die (says she) rather than give my hand to a person whom I cannot love;" adding, that if her father should never hear more of her, yet she begs that he will not hate her memory, for she freely acknowledges that she has been disobedient, although contrary to her inclinations.

She does not know my father's sentiments concerning her, otherwise

wife she would once more fly to his indulgent arms. But whatever may happen, be assured, my dear Frederic, that my friendship shall still be the same to you, because your merit intitles you to it.

B.

CHARLOTTE, *Countess of G* —
to ISABELLA.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

YOU are greatly to blame for finding fault with my writing to you in the pleasant manner I did, for it was with a view of diverting your melancholy hours, of which I am afraid you have too many. You must not imagine me a nun; I have not yet forsaken the world; and I can no more write in your strain, than adhere to your resolutions. You may still retain your original character, but remember I must do the same.

It is really diverting to hear you threaten me that you will chuse a new friend. I will not scold you, but remember that I have it in my
power

power to be revenged if you treat me with such saucy airs. But I forgot to mention what you hinted at in your last, namely, that I must send you an account of how many soldiers and officers have been killed, wounded, or taken prisoners. I really think you believe I understand a military life, but to your comfort I can inform you, that Frederic Lovemore is now a colonel in the army; and as it is expected that peace will be declared next winter, he will return to England loaded with titles and honours; at which time I think he will be a very fit husband for my Isabella. I have not yet received a letter from your brother, but be assured that as soon as it comes to hand it shall be forwarded to my impatient friend. It gives me a good deal of pleasure to hear that you are still favoured with the young lady's company,
because

because it is at least one means of dispelling those melancholy thoughts that have so long preyed upon your spirits: but take care you do not let her have a place in your affections to deprive me of my friend, otherwise I shall never send you any account of the pretty colonel.

My mamma is perfectly recovered, but I have never told her of your adventure, because I am sure she would send an account thereof to the marquis, and then I should forfeit all title to your friendship.

CHARLOTTE G——.

FREDERIC

FREDERIC LOVEMORE, to JEREMY
WATSON, *Esq*;

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I Am safely arrived here, but with a most dissatisfied mind. I have heard that the marquis has received a letter from Isabella, but she has concealed from him the place of her retirement.

You may think I have told you already the whole of my afflictions, and the many distractions I have suffered, but I find new ones presenting themselves every day. Our general has been wounded, and it is greatly to be feared that he will not recover. Heavens preserve his valuable life for the good of his country! I once thought I could have
been

been happy, had the lovely Isabella been mine, but I am not a judge of my own heart. My mind is tortured daily with anxiety for her preservation. What miseries may not she be exposed to from fatigues, and all those insults that innocence receive from strangers ! I am the unhappy wretch who has occasioned all this trouble, but I shall not belong a witness of it ; for, besides all the dangers to which I am exposed from the nature of my employment, I find my health on the decline ; so that most probably there will soon be an end of all my miseries. I find, that several of my brother-officers talk of my preferment, but I have no such ambitious views ; I am just high enough already, for I do not look upon myself as properly qualified to take the command of a regiment, much less of a part of the army.

We

We are at present preparing for another engagement, which probably will be a bloody one ; but I shall never pay much regard to a life that is scarce worth the preserving. Let me beg, that as soon as your business is finished, you will, in consequence of my promise, visit my ever-honoured patron, the marquis, I am sure he desires to see you, and your company will administer some consolation to one of the best men in the world.

FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

FREDERIC

FREDERIC LOVEMORE, to Lord
B——.

My dear and ever-honoured Friend,

EVER since my arrival in the camp, my health has been but indifferent; although, when every thing is considered, I cannot reasonably complain, and I do not want to form imaginary evils. The continual hurry we are in here, made me almost forget some of my friends, but happen whatever will, could I but hear that your honourable family is well, I should feel the most refined pleasure, even amidst the horrors of war. We expect every day the appearance of the enemy, who are said to be more numerous than we, but victory does not always attend numbers;

bers ; and if fortune should prove propitious, the glory will to us be the greater. Then shall I have the pleasure of once more visiting my beloved friend, and spending many agreeable days in his company.

You need not doubt but I will take all the care I possibly can of my safety, so far as is consistent with my duty to my king and country ; and you know you would be sorry to hear that I had been guilty of one dishonourable action. I have been advanced to a higher command since my return, but our brave general is in such a declining way, that I am afraid he will not recover. He often sends for me, and treats me with the greatest tenderness ; but I am filled with the utmost anxiety when I reflect on the danger we are in of losing so valuable a man, whose life has been spent in supporting the interests, and maintain-
ing

ing the honour of his country. Indeed, I should be the most ungrateful wretch in the world, if I did not wish well to his safety, after the many favours he has shewn me.

If his health is not re-established, I shall be one of the most wretched creatures in the world; for his benevolence has made so deep an impression on my mind, that I cannot forget it. I hope by this time, my generous patron, the marquis, is recovered; and likewise hope, that the amiable Isabella is returned. Let me hear from you oftener, I have no consolation but what comes from you, and therefore I hope my ever-honoured friend will not deny my request.

FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

JEREMY

JEREMY WATSON, *to* FREDERIC
LOVEMORE.

WELL, my dear Frederic, here I am in this busy town, and my own business as perplexing as that of some others who are better acquainted therewith. Things have been left in such confusion, that I do not think I shall be able to finish the whole in a month, if not more.

I have some little legacies to give away; and, in order to save myself the trouble of another journey, I intend to see them all distributed before I depart. I expect you will soon have thoughts of returning home, and then I shall have the pleasure of meeting with you at the country seat of the marquis, where I intend spending a few weeks. I
think

think you say, the marquis has received a letter from his daughter, and I doubt not but her brother knows where she is, although he may be bound by a promise to conceal it.

You would not take the advice I gave you in some former letters, and your cruelty has forced the lady to put herself under the protection of some kind swain. I think, if she is endowed with any spirit, she would make you repent of your own indifference. I believe there are but few young fellows in the present age, who would chuse to copy after your example in that part of your conduct, which I look upon as unnatural.

I hope you are not such a fool as to refuse any offer of preferment that may be made you, because were that to take place, you would destroy all those hopes that I have
formed

formed of your military services and other accomplishments. Were you advanced to some high rank in the army, you would be a proper match for a lady of the most elevated station, and then your passion might be made known to the marquis. Whatever the lady's notions may be at present, this I am sure of, that if she really loves you, she would on no account refuse to give her hand to one, who was honoured with so high a command. Do you imagine that I am such a fool, to believe that you have no ambitious views, and are utterly destitute of spirit. No, Frederic, I know otherwise, and doubt not but I shall live to see you discover your real sentiments.

JEREMY WATSON.

ISABELLA

ISABELLA to CHARLOTTE,
Countess of G——.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I Am out of all manner of patience, since I have not heard from my brother. If I do not hear from him soon, I shall certainly return, and throw myself at my father's feet, if he is still alive. I will endeavour to make some amends, by being more obedient for the future, for I am not able to live such a life of uncertainty. My peace of mind is destroyed, and I am afraid it will prove fatal to my health.

O Frederic! how much have I suffered for you? but I will not mention one word more about that subject; I am determined to forget there ever was such a person.

I think

I think it is now about two months since you sent my letter to my father ! by you have not given me an account, what reception it met with. Do you think, my dear, that he would forgive me were I to return home? I am afraid not, because I have disgraced his family ; but then I can remember, that he once loved me, and surely that love cannot be so soon converted into hatred ! No, it cannot ! I have also the consolation to remember, that my brother's love and friendship was always great to me, as he even did all he could to persuade my father against the match : but what can be the reason he will not act in the same manner now ?

I assure you, my dear, he is a worthy creature, and would be an object worthy of your love. But why do I write so ? I cannot help it : for when I take up the pen

nothing less than the thoughts of my heart come uppermost. Farewell, my dear friend, may every happiness attend you.

ISABELLA.

JEREMY

JEREMY WATSON, *Esq;* to
Lord B——.

MY LORD,

I AM credibly informed that your friend Colonel Lovemore has been lately advanced to the command of that regiment, in which he has served with so much reputation, both for courage and military skill. I am sure you will rejoice in his good fortune, not only because he is your friend, but also that it is no more than the just reward of his merit.

I am also informed by the same accounts, that the commander in chief is dead, and as the next in
G 2 quality

quality has received his commission, Colonel Lovemore will be promoted to the rank of major general, in order to take upon him the command of a detached part of the army. I am told that Frederic has declared, that he will decline any future preferment, but if so, he shall forfeit all title to my friendship as long as he lives. Pray what objection can he have to the acceptance of an honourable employment? but he has such mean notions of his own merit, that I know not what to make of him. Excuse my harsh expressions, for they are only the effects of pure friendship, for one whom I wish well. He forces me to write what I did not intend, but I hope he will give up all foolish scruples, and embrace an opportunity that may never again happen.

I hope

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I hope the marquis is well, and be assured that when I have settled my affairs in this place, I will do myself the honour of visiting him.

JEREMY WATSON.

G 3

Lord

*Lord B—— to Colonel FREDERIC
LOVEMORE.*

MY DEAR FREDERIC,

I HAVE received a letter from your friend Mr. Watson, wherein I learn that you have been promoted to the command of a regiment, and that you might still rise to a higher command, were it not for your own scruples, or a diffidence of your abilities. I must also join with him in begging, that if you have the least regard for your own interest, or the honour of our family, you will not let slip any opportunity of that nature as it may never again offer itself. Indeed I cannot see what objections you can have, for as the
general

general is dead there must be a promotion of officers, and why should not you accept the honour as well as another? you have already given sufficient proofs of your courage, and my father is greatly pleased with the prospect now before you.

Indeed I did not chuse to mention to him that you had any scruples on your mind, because I am sure he would have been offended, but by this time I hope they are all vanished. My father is something better since he has heard that my sister is safe, and I doubt not but we shall soon learn the place of her retirement.

Lord L——, the husband that was intended for her, is now on a treaty of marriage with a lady of great fortune, and a friend of my aunt's, so that when it is concluded, Isabella may return without being afraid of any one.

I long to see her, and hope I shall never again experience such a disagreeable absence. I have sent you Mr. Watson's letter that you may peruse the contents, and see with what earnest anxiety he is concerned for your interest and honour. We expect to see him about the end of the summer, at which time you will be able to tell whether we are likely to have peace or not, that I may once more see my dear friend loaded with honours. I hope in my next to congratulate you on another degree of preferment, and in the mean time am your assured friend,

E——.

CHAR-

CHARLOTTE, *Countess of G—*,
to ISABELLA.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

ALTHOUGH I have received a letter from a nobleman of your brother's accomplishments, I have hardly left myself time to peruse the contents. I hear that Lord L— is on a treaty of marriage with a lady who has been proposed by your worthy match-making aunt. You see she was determined that he should have a wife somewhere, although I am still afraid it is only a scheme to get you home, because I think if he had loved you, he would not have been in such a vio-

G 5

lent

lent hurry to look out for another so soon.

I acknowledge it must have been very provoking to one of his rank and spirit, to meet with such treatment as he did from the lovely Isabella, but I commend him for not breaking his heart, as there are many fine ladies would be glad to give him their hands ; I really think it would have been kind in you to have spoken a word in favour of your friend. You will find a letter inclosed, which I hope will give you some comfort, but I had almost forgot your poor Frederic.

Your brother says he is well, but I believe by this time you have been wise enough to forget him. Possibly not, and I know that when you write next, you will not fail to tell me some of those violent effusions of your passion, that so readily drop from your pen. I know very well
the

the state of your mind, altho' not by experience, and I am extremely pleased that it is so.

I would not have you think of letting any one know where you are yet, because I think it would be very improper, till you hear further. One Mr. Lovemore, a friend of mine, is to visit me in a few days, and I shall send you a description of him. He is lately advanced to a high command in the army, and is reputed to be possessed of many accomplishments, of which I shall not take much notice because I intend to give you a particular account of his faults, which I doubt not are very numerous. Expect to hear from me soon, and be assured I am your sincere friend,

CHARLOTTE G——,

G 6

Lord

*Lord B—— to CHARLOTTE,
Countess of G——.*

MADAM,

AGreeable to your desire, I have sent you the first account that we could receive concerning my sister, but it is of very little service to us, as we are still ignorant of the place where she has taken up her residence. She has not sent us the least notice where we may direct to her, and our afflictions are still greater than can be expressed. I am sure, that if she knew but one half of what we suffer, she would not hesitate one moment to return back to the arms of her disconsolate father, who would receive her with that parental tenderness he shewed for her in her most tender years.

My

My distress since she left us, has been encreased by the illness of an indulgent parent, and that of a beloved friend ; but thank God, they are now both much better. You cannot shew us a greater kindness than making proper inquiry in that part where you reside, concerning your old friend Isabella ; and, if you can hear any thing of her, be so kind to inform her, we are willing to forgive her.

B———.

FREDERIC

FREDERIC LOVEMORE to Lord
B——.

My dear and ever worthy Friend,

I Hope you do not think so meanly of me, as to imagine that I should reject the advice of friends to whom I am under the highest obligations! No, my Lord, were it even disagreeable to my own inclinations, I should do a violence to them rather than disobey your request. With what countenance could I look my friend in the face, if I refused to comply with what must promote both my honour and interest. I have the pleasure to inform you, that I have been honoured with a commission of a general in the army, and am now at the head of many brave men and officers, whose merits are far superior to any thing I have
a right

a right to pretend to. I hope the next letter you receive, will convince you of a certainty, at what time I may expect to see my ever-honoured patron, and amiable friend. When I return I shall be presented to his majesty in the common form, not that I am fond of such honours but in compliance with an established rule.

If Mr. Watson is then in London, I shall hope that his business is finished, and therefore look for his company along with me to your house; where all those lovely schemes we once formed of happiness, will be again realized. I look upon myself as extremely happy in my new station, but much more so, that you have heard from your sister. And I hope when I arrive, I shall see the lovely Isabella superintending the affairs of her father's family.

Please

Please to tell Mr. Watson, that I have gratified his pride for once ; I hope that he will excuse my not writing to him sooner, because I am obliged to attend to some things of much more importance than friendship, although that is a passion I should never desire to divest myself of. The station to which I am now advanced, obliges me to consider war both in a speculative and mechanical light ; I am obliged to study its theory, and the service of my country requires that the result of those studies should be to distress the enemy as much as possible ; how far I have succeeded, time will shew ; I shall not write any encomiums on my own abilities, but be assured, whatever may happen, I am still your kind friend,

FREDERIC LOVEMORE.

Lord

Lord B—— to JEREMY WATSON,
Esq;

S I R,

I Embrace the present opportunity to give you the first intelligence which I have received of our amiable friend, Frederic Lovemore, who is not such an insignificant being as you reported him; for in complaisance with the request of his friends, he has accepted of the proffered commission, and is now a general in the army.

He is now at the head of one part of the combined army; and I am assured by a letter just now arrived from him, that he will, in all human probability, be in London at the end of the campaign, in order to be presented to his most gracious

cious sovereign. I have sent you his letter, by which you will find that he expects to meet in London, and from thence accompany you to our house; I hope it will be soon. Let me hear from you; and may happiness attend all your undertakings.

B—

CHAR—

CHARLOTTE, *Countess of G—*,
to ISABELLA.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I Have now taken up the pen in order to write to you on a very melancholy prospect indeed ; and you may now justly say, that all my former vivacity has forsook me. My mother, the most tender, the most indulgent parent, is now no more ; death has closed her eyes in silence, and she is now gone to that country from whence no one ever returns. I did not expect the shock so suddenly as it came, but the ways of Providence are hid to us mortals, and we lose ourselves in the bewildering maze. Excuse a tear ; when nature is shut out at the door, she will

will come in at the window; and the once gay, the sprightly Charlotte is now a pensive, a melancholy recluse. When my grief has in some measure subsided, I shall give you a more particular account, and in the mean time believe me to be

Yours,

With the greatest sincerity,

CHARLOTTE G——.

ISABELLA

ISABELLA to CHARLOTTE,
Countess of G——.

My dear Friend,

YOU are not acquainted with the power of genuine friendship, or you would easily perceive what I suffered when I heard of your imprudent step ; but let me administer all the comfort in my power. Your mother is now released from all her afflictions ; and although the fatal stroke may be a loss to you, yet it is to her a real gain ; so that you ought rather to rejoice than lament. Alas ! I know not what to say, for I am really wretched myself. Emilia is ordered to get herself in readiness for her departure from this place, so that my residence in it is not likely to be very agreeable

agreeable. I shall have no friend to converse with, and you are too far distant to keep up a regular correspondence; I must, I suppose, return to the arms of my disconsolate father, and yet I know not whether he will suffer me. I cannot comfort my amiable friend, I am more in need of consolation myself, but for all that, let me still retain a place in your heart. These little rubs will all blow over, we may yet be happy; and who knows but I may one day see Frederic? But where does my pen lead me! I am disheartened. O! my Charlotte, forgive me, who is in love, at least you have seen the amiable object that has occasioned all this unhappiness.

ISABELLA.

FRED.

FREDERIC LOVEMORE *to Lord*
B——.

My dear Friend,

VICTORY has declared in our
favour, and there is no doubt but
the blessing of peace will once more
diffuse its healing influence over
those happy plains, where my in-
fant years were nourished. I long
to give you a detail of my honours,
and lay at the feet of my generous
patron, that affluence I am master
of; for to his bounty I am indebted
for it all, yea, and all that I am.
Do not be offended, my friend; for
my heart is filled with gratitude,
when I think of your honoured fa-
mily. I shall make all the haste I
possibly can, to finish my business
when I come to London, and then
hasten

hasten to your seat. Mr. Watson has sent me word, that his business will be finished before I can possibly have the pleasure of his company, but that will amply be made up by meeting him with the rest of my friends. That worthy gentleman informs me, that you have promised to accompany him to bring home his amiable daughter, whom I am sure you will admire. Let me, therefore, caution you to keep a strict watch over your heart, least Louisa's charms make such an impression as can never be effaced. But signifies talking of love, unless we are in favour with the dear object: and, as for myself, I have no right to expect a lady of her fortune and accomplishments. Nothing shall ever persuade me to enter into the marriage-state, unless I meet with one whom I can prefer to all the rest of her sex, and am also convinced

vinced that I am the object of her love; for experience convinces us, that all the unhappiness we see in families, arise in from the inequality of tempers, where the husband and wife pretends to have separate interests in view; but, on the other hand, those who really love each other will be happy, let their station be either high or low. I am afraid to ask for Isabella, but I hope she is now returned, and that I shall see her along with my other friends.

FRED. LOVEMORE.

ISABELLA to CHARLOTTE,
Countess of G——.

I Have made such a discovery, my dear friend, as I think will surprize you, although I am scarce able to bring the whole into the compass of one letter. I was sitting with Emilia the other day, for that is the name she has gone by ever since she came here; and there being a letter brought to her, she retired to peruse it, after which she returned, and told me, that her father, and two other gentlemen, were on their journey to conduct her home. I smiled, and told her, that I supposed one of the gentlemen was her lover; but she assured me I was greatly mistaken, for one of them was an utter stranger, and the other had not

not a heart to bestow, being deeply in love with a young lady, whom she supposed was ignorant of his passion. I told her, the lady might have a great respect for the gentleman, but then the rules of female decorum, forbade her to mention it unless he had first made his passion known to her. No, answered she, that is not the case; for the gentleman's birth is so obscure, and so little known, that he despairs of ever having her parents consent, and at the same time he has not courage to ask it, because he is under many obligations to the family. He enjoys at present a high command in the army, and my father says, that the general is to accompany him to this place. I lamented that I was going to lose so valuable a friend, because I had been more delighted with her company than that of any in the house. But she

the politest manner, begged that I would accompany her to her father's, assuring me, that she would be happy in my acquaintance, which she hoped to enjoy as long as she lived. I told her, that as my intention in coming to this place, was to conceal myself for some time. I could not consent with the plan I had laid down comply with her request, but promised at the same time to correspond with her as often as possible. She then gave a direction where to write to her; but great was my surprize, when taking it up, I read Louisa Watson, of H——. I dropped the paper, and had almost fainted away, but recovering my spirits, she begged me to tell her the reason of my surprize.

I asked her whether she knew one Mr. Frederic Lovemore? Yes, says she, that gentleman and Lord B——,

B——, are those who are to accompany my father to this place.

I asked her many questions concerning the family of the marquis, and was so inquisitive, that she told me, she was assured from my importunity, that I knew more of them than herself. She told me further, she would not gratify my curiosity in any single particular, until I had communicated to her the reason of my being so inquisitive. But I must send the remainder in my next.

ISABELLA.

From the Same to the Same.

I Then told her who I was, and desired her advice in the most friendly manner. She told me to walk to her closet, where I should see all her letters; and from them I might be able to form some notion of what I was to do. I embraced her, and declared that from that moment I would love her as a sister, while she assured me, I should never have reason to complain of ingratitude on her part. When I had perused two or three of her letters, I found that my father had been extremely ill, and Frederic given over by his physicians at the house of Mr. Watson, where he had been several weeks. Reading still further, I found
that

that he had been obliged to join the army before he was perfectly recovered, looking upon himself as the sole cause of my not complying with my father's will. In some of Mr. Watson's letters, I find that gentleman expressing his sorrow at the unhappy fate poor Frederic is likely to suffer on my account; and, in Frederic's letters, are several expressions, intimating that he could not, consistent with gratitude, indulge a passion that would prove dishonourable to his gracious patron. Mr. Watson nobly promises to make up the want of fortune to me in case of my father's denial, but still Frederic cannot declare his passion. Poor Frederic! but still it is some comfort, that I am not indifferent to him. But will my father ever consent to my being his? No, I suppose never. I have a good mind to disclose my passion to my brother.

sure, he cannot be offended with me because I love his friend. But possibly his pride may get the better of his friendship, and if he should inform my father, then Frederic is despised by the family and forbidden the house, which I am sure would prove fatal to his health.

Miss Watson and I have agreed, that when they arrive, she is to tell her father, that there is a young lady whom she esteems, and to whom she has promised, that she shall accompany her home, and, then I am to be introduced, to the surprize of them all. It is true, I objected to this, lest it should have too great an effect on their spirits; but she, like you, will have it her own way, so I must comply, as we are every moment in expectation of their arrival. How my foolish heart flutters, when I think that I shall once more see my dear brother, and soon
after

after, an indulgent father ! When I am once at home, I shall expect your company, as that will serve to divert your melancholy for the loss of your mother. I shall send you the particulars of the reception I shall meet with from my father ; and if I am happy with my dear Frederic, I shall thank you, by whose kindness I was favoured with this retreat ; for, had not you interposed, I might have suffered many hardships.

ISABELLA.

From the Same to the Same.

I AM once more in a place of safety, but let me go on with my story in a proper manner. When word was brought to Miss Watson that her father was arrived, we were sitting together in her chamber, but I hastened to my apartment with trembling steps, and remained some time in great perplexity not knowing how to act, but Miss Watson coming into the chamber, I asked if I could now have the pleasure of seeing my beloved brother, yes, said she, but I suppose you don't desire to see General Lovemore. I told her she was a very wicked girl, but she took me by the hand and without farther ceremony led me to the
parlour

parlour where the gentlemen were, when my brother clasping me in his arms, said I am once more happy in seeing my long lost Isabella ; Frederic seemed quite surprized, and was unable to speak a word, till my brother presented me first to him, and then to Mr. Watson. Frederic said it was a happiness he did not expect, and Mr. Watson in his jocund manner, said he should now have two run-a-way daughters to conduct home. Mr. Watson is a fine merry old gentleman, and has a strong resemblance of the amiable Louisa. My brother dispatched an express to my father, telling him, that I was ready to implore his forgiveness, and having taken leave of the place, we set out together, with such pleasure as can only be felt but not expressed.

Frederic said but little, during the whole of the journey, and I ob-

served that my brother paid more attention to every look of Miss Watson, and what expressions she made use of, than ever I had seen him do to any of the sex before.

When we alighted at the inn to dinner, I was not a little proud to see my young general hand me out of the coach ; but when dinner was served up he eat very little, complaining that he was a little indisposed. Alas ! I was obliged to stifle my passion in my breast, lest my brother had suspected the real cause. When dinner was over he proposed taking a walk in the garden, in order to enjoy the benefit of the air, as he had not been much used to travelling in carriages.

Soon after he was gone, Miss Watson took me by the hand, and told me that we must go and see what was become of the General, otherwise her father would be very uneasy,

uneasy. When we had got into the garden, she desired I would shew some compassion to poor Frederic, as she was well assured, his indisposition arose from the unexpected meeting he had with me. I told her, that I thought her presence was as likely to occasion an alteration in his health as mine, because I thought she could not so easily give him up. She assured me, that her regard for him arose from friendship only. Just as we turned into one of the walks, we saw Frederic, sitting with his head reclined on his hand, seemingly lost in contemplation. He did not see us till we went close to him, and then he started up in surprise, offering to leave us; but Miss Watson desired him to favour us with his company.

He bowed consent, and walked along with us unable to speak, although I did every thing to bring
on

on some sort of conversation. At last, Louisa said, I hope, General, nothing has happened to discompose your mind since you left us, for I never remember to see you so much dejected before? He begged our pardon in the politest manner, and told us, that he was really indisposed, but he would wait a few days at that place till he was better, unless it was disagreeable to my brother.

Alas! my friend, love got the better of reason, and I could not help shedding a tear, to see the only man whom I loved in the world so much afflicted; although my pride was not a little mortified at his indifference. I endeavoured to conceal my weakness, but in vain; for he seeing me, turned about, and with the most languishing countenance, said, I hope, my dear lady, these tears are not shed for such a
wretch

wretch as me. I told him, that as all he suffered was on my account, I would endeavour to forget my unhappy passion ; and, as my presence was disagreeable to him, I would withdraw. I acknowledge I have acted inconsistent with the rest of my sex, in being the first to declare a passion that was too violent to be any longer concealed, but I hope I shall be able to overcome it. Miss Watson had purposely left us, and just as I was going to see for her, he begged that I would blefs him a few minutes longer with my company. I pitied him, yet I thought I must mortify him a little for his seeming indifference. I told him, that my brother would be waiting for us ; but instead of giving me any answer, he dropped down apparently dead. I ran and called Louisa, who soon came to my assistance, and we tried to bring him to himself

self, but in vain. I sent her to the house for assistance, but before she returned, he opened his eyes, and seeing me, he endeavoured to get up, but was unable. I really thought he was dying, and with tears laid hold of his hand, begging him to live for me.

O! my dear friend, I cannot describe my distress when he attempted to speak but could not for some minutes! when he faintly asked me to forgive him, and then he should die in peace.

I told him, not to add to my affliction; but before he could make any reply, my brother and Mr. Watson came up. He begged I would not let them see that I had been concerned for him, and only asked, that as soon as an opportunity offered, I would favour him with an hour's conversation: all which I complied with, upon conditions

ditions of his promise to compose himself. He looked upon me with such a favourable countenance, that I had not the least doubt of his sincerity ; and Mr. Watson, with my brother, having helped him to a feat, he told them, that he found himself much better. After some cordials had been administered he walked to the house.

ISABELLA.

From

From the Same to the Same.

DURING the remainder of the evening, Louisa appeared much dejected; and I began to imagine, that she entertained a secret passion for my brother. I should be proud of such a sister, for she is really a fine girl.

We slept but little during the night, and when the morning came, Louisa and myself, took a walk in the garden; but what was our surprise, when we found my Frederic there before us, while we imagined he was still in bed! I asked him how he had slept; and he told me, that he was much better, and insisted that I should make good my promise. Accordingly, we retired to
an

an harbour at some distance from Louisa, whom I desired to inform me if my brother should come, because I did not chuse that he should find us together, till I had opened my mind, which I resolved to do as soon as I had an opportunity.

We sat silent for some minutes, till I spoke by telling him, that all I had to say, was, that I would never see him more, because I knew my presence was disagreeable. Do not, my dear Isabella, said he, distress me so much, you know not what I have suffered on your account, ever since your absence from your family; and there is no wonder that I should be surprized, and even affected at seeing you suddenly. How could I entertain a passion for the daughter of my generous benefactor, while I knew it would make him unhappy? But, Frederic, said I, you know that daughter first declared

clared that passion for you, otherwise I know you would never have made a public explanation of your sentiments on the matter. He told me that my declaration had made him wretched indeed, for, said he, let my preferments in the army be ever so great, yet the obscurity of my birth for ever prevents my succeeding. Let me beg, therefore, that you will banish from your thoughts the image of a wretch who cannot enjoy his utmost wishes without being guilty of a crime, as would for ever destroy my peace of mind. And do you think, said I, that my passion for you can be so easily extinguished; but answer me one question, Are not your affections placed upon some other of my sex? or do you love me above them all? I must be plain, therefore answer me, because my happiness depends upon it? My adorable
 angel,

angel, said he, you have no room to doubt, for I never loved one but yourself, which first took place when I came from abroad with your brother. I then asked him, whether he would consent that I should communicate the affair to my brother, but this he thought to dissuade me from, by telling me, that he should be forbid the house. I see, Frederic, answered I, that you have more regard to the honour of my family, than any real love or respect; indeed, I am amazed at my own weakness, but I will rid you of your fears, let the consequences be what they will. You are resolved, I see, to make me commit some action fatal to myself, for I am not able to support my misery. I was so affected, that I fainted away, but coming again to myself, he took me in his arms, and asked my pardon, telling me, that he would
suffer

suffer any thing for me, and do whatever I counselled him. I told him, that nothing but his seeming indifference made me unhappy, for I was willing to promote his happiness at the expence of my own. Every thing being settled, we returned to the house, and found the company waiting for us.

ISABELLA.

From

From the Same to the Same.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

WHEN breakfast was over we proceeded on our journey, and my dear Frederic was really engaging. He is a fine figure, and I could not help stealing a look at him, altho' I could plainly perceive that it put him to the blush. It was the same with my brother and Miss Watson, for they were both as much in love as Frederic and myself. Love is pleasant, courtship is agreeable; and when we arrived at my honoured father's seat, I was received with open arms, intimating that his tenderness, even to a disobedient daughter was just the same as before I gave

gave him any offence. But for all that, our happiness received another check, for my dear brother was seized with a sudden illness, in consequence of his passion for Miss Watson. General Lovemore sat constantly by his bedside, (you know I love that name) and when he began to recover, he asked him in a jocular manner, when Miss Watson was to be his bride; never, never, My dear friend, said my brother. Frederic told him that he always thought that he was in love with Miss Watson since he had first seen, and desired to know how he could be indifferent to so many charms? For my own part, I am sensible that she is one of the most accomplished of her sex, but for all that I am so much engaged, that nothing can remove my affections from the beloved object; but I can see your growing passion for
 Louisa,

Louisa, so that you need not attempt to conceal it, otherwise it will prey upon you, and in the end endanger your health. And do you really think, said my brother, that Louisa could love me? Yes, said my dear general, I am sure she loves you, and to-morrow you shall pay your addresses to her in form. She will return all your love, she will receive you with open arms, and then I shall see my dear friend happy. Such, my dear, was the conversation that passed at that time, which I doubt not will be agreeable to you, notwithstanding all your volatile loquacity.

ISABELLA.

From the Same to the Same.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

NEXT day my brother was introduced to Louisa, and declared his passion in the most tender manner. She told him that he had too many accomplishments for any woman of the least sensibility to be deaf to, and she had never seen one equal to him, except General Lovemore, or as she called him Frederic. He told her that he was afraid she could only give him a part of her heart ; but she answered in the most free and candid manner, that she had once entertained a passion for the amiable Frederic, but as his affections were pre-engaged, she she had dropped

dropped all thoughts of him any farther than as a friend, a character she would be always ready to honour him with. She was then silent for some time, which my brother observing, seized her hand, and kissed it in the utmost transport of passion; begging that she would make him happy by a declaration of her love. Her answer was more to the purpose than I imagined. She told him, that what he asked of her required some time to consider of it; but she was ready to give him an answer, as soon as she knew who was the lady that was to be happy in Frederic. I was distressed on account of my dear Frederic, because I was well assured that my brother would not leave him, till he had given him an account of his passion. Louisa told me that she would never give

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her hand to any man, unless she
saw Frederic Lovemore married,
for, says she, if I am to be a slave,
he shall be the same.

ISABELLA.

From

From the Same to the Same.

My Dear Friend,

MY brother and Frederic having retired into another room, I went to them, and found them in close conversation together. My brother seemed very angry, and in a violent tone of voice, declared Frederic was unworthy of his friendship, telling him, that his happiness depended upon his answer. I turned to the general, and asked if he would give me leave to speak for him, as I believed I was able to explain the mystery. He seemed perplexed, he knew not what answer to make, till I repeated the question again; and then he told me, that I was at liberty to say what I pleased; only remember, that I shall be wretched

for ever after, as the marquis will forbid me the house, and you my love, will have reason to despise me.

I told him, he had no such reason to distress himself, for said I, my father's friendship is not built on so weak a foundation, as ever to despise the person whom he once esteemed without assigning a proper reason. If you have been guilty of a fault in loving me, it was because I first made a declaration. My brother looked first at him, and then at me, but neither of us spoke, only my Frederic shed tears. At last my brother said, O Frederic! I am afraid, neither you nor I will ever be happy; for I know my father will not give his consent to an union with you and my sister. Happy should I be, could I but call my Frederic brother; and putting our hands together he shed tears,
but

but alas ! what can I do ? so tender a scene affected me considerably, for although I have a great flow of spirits, yet they then forsook me. My brother assured Frederic, that nothing should be wanting to bring about an accommodation on the most agreeable terms : and I, turning to Frederic, asked him, whether he was offended with me for making a passion known, which I could not conceal ? No, my angel, said he, I have none to blame, for how could I hope for such favours ? but how do I know yet what may happen ? your father may still seek for a husband for you equal to yourself in rank : for as to affluence I have as much of it as is necessary to satisfy any reasonable mind. No father, said she, shall ever force me to give this hand to any but my Frederic ; yours I am by the most sacred ties ; nothing but the cold hand of death,

shall separate me from the man, who by merit alone, has risen superior to fortune. Then, said he, I am happy, and a few rubs that may happen in the way, cannot give me much uneasiness.

ISABELLA.

From

From the Same to the Same.

My dear Friend,

MY brother continued to solicit Miss Watson to mention the day that was to make him happy ; but she declared in the most obstinate manner, that she would be married on the same day with Isabella. Indeed I thought her a mad girl, because she undertook to communicate the affair to my father, which I knew my brother would not do ; neither would Frederic give his consent, because he was sure it would offend the marquis. O Frederic ! said I, why was not your birth equal to mine ? but what does it signify ? for had you been a prince, none could have separated you from me ; for merit is more in my esteem, than all worldly honour whatever ;
No,

No, Frederic, these are despicable things with me.

When dark oblivion in her sable cloak,
Shall wrap the murmur of heroes. and of kings,
And their high heads, submitting to the stroke
Of time, shall fall among forgotten things.

I returned with my brother's solicitations, to prevail with Louisa to make him happy. I went to seek for her in the garden, and found her in company with her father, and deeply engaged in conversation. I asked her to speak a few words? but in the most saucy, insolent manner, she told me, she could not spare time, then, but in a few moments she would wait on me. I began to be afraid that she was persuading her father against any connections with our family, but I was mistaken; for I found she was pleading with him to intercede with my father in favour of Frederic and myself. In the mean time, Frederic came in, and asked Miss Watson,

son, whether she intended to make my brother happy; because, if she delayed any longer, his health would be thereby much affected. She gave him the same answer as before to her lover, namely, that she would give my brother her hand on the same day that I was married to the handsome general. Such, my dear, was Miss Watson's obstinacy; but, I dare say you will acknowledge it was done out of friendship to me. The consequences, however, were likely to prove very fatal: for no sooner did my father know that Frederic loved me, than he forbid him the house; at the same time threatening my brother, that if ever he conversed with him, or kept up the least correspondence by letters, he would look upon him as one who set his commands at defiance. The particulars in my next.

ISABELLA.

From

From the Same to the Same.

OH my Charlotte ! how great was my distress ? how inexpressible my misery ? for my brother was seized with a violent fit of illness, and the whole was ascribed to me. During the whole of his illness, he was delirious, and no expression was to be heard but Frederic and Louisa, names that he seemed to dwell on with pleasure, even in a raging fever. When he began to regain the use of his reason, I went to visit him, when he took me by the hand in the most affectionate manner, and told me he was equally concerned for me, and his more than amiable friend. You will be miserable, said he, but I shall not see it, for before that event takes place, I shall be silent

lent in death. I am only sorry for my father, and as you cannot consistent with the force of your passion make him happy, yet be as obedient as possible. Tell my Louisa that I shall love her name, and mention it with pleasure, even on a death-bed, although she is not to be mine. At that instant my father and miss Watson came into the room, and the scene became really affecting. My father burst into tears when he saw his only beloved son, and Miss Watson kneeled down at the bed of her apparently dying lover. While we were all drowned in tears, Mr. Watson came in, and I do assure you I was extremely pleased, for taking my father by the hand he led him out, seemingly very inquisitive to know the state of his mind, and to communicate something to him. At that instant, I fell upon my knees, and begged
that

that my father would take some pity on his beloved son. My dear father turned to me, and asked if there was any hopes of my brother's recovery. I told him, that I did not in the least doubt, if he would only condescend to smile upon and pity his unhappy sister. My father looked upon me in such a manner as I am not able to express, for pity and pride were both imprinted on his countenance ; after which he went out with Mr. Watson, leaving me in the utmost perplexity.

They walked about an hour in the garden, seemingly in a strong dispute, but at last they returned, and my father in the most benevolent manner, told my brother to live for his sake. Live, said he, and make me happy, Miss Watson shall be yours, and instead of friend, you shall call Frederic Lovemore your brother ; he has been brought
up

up under my protection, I bought him a commission in the army, and his merit has raised him to the highest rank. My daughter shall be his, he alone can make her happy, and nothing shall be wanting on my part to promote it.

These expressions were uttered with more than even parental tenderness, and my brother recovered daily. At last the happy moment, arrived, the day was fixed for our nuptials, Miss Watson and myself were both married at the same time, and I am now the lady, or if you please, the wife of the all accomplished General Lovemore. The title, wife, fits very easy upon me, and whatever you may think, I can assure you I am at the summit of my wishes, now that the general is my own. I hope to see you soon that you may be a witness of that happiness which we enjoy, and then
I am

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I am persuaded you would not have any objection to the marriage state. Happy in the enjoyment of all that I can wish for, let me beg to see you soon, and in the mean time, be assured that I am inviolably

Yours,

ISABELLA.

F I N I S.

